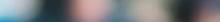


## 2024 WICPA BUSINESS & INDUSTRY FALL CONFERENCE

YOUR SOURCE FOR KEY UPDATES & INSIGHTS ON TIMELY ISSUES



**HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS:** 



NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF BENEFITS INSURANCE: TRENDS, STRATEGIES & SOLUTIONS

Find out about the latest marketplace trends and innovative strategies in benefits insurance



SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN BUSINESS CLIMATE UPDATE

Get the latest updates on the business climate in southeast Wisconsin and the overall strategy to spur economic growth in the region



AI USE & ETHICS FOR ACCOUNTANTS

Learn about the transformative potential of AI in the accounting field and the importance of ethical AI use

## CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

### **TUESDAY, OCT. 22**

Brookfield Conference Center & WICPA CPE Livestream

7 - 8 a.m.

Registration & Networking Celebration Atrium

8 - 8:15 a.m.

Welcome & Opening Remarks Connect B

8:15 - 9:15 a.m.

GENERAL SESSION Southeast Wisconsin Business Climate Update Connect B

9:15 - 9:35 a.m.

Break

Celebration Atrium

9:35 - 10:35 a.m.

**GENERAL SESSION Employment Law Updates** Connect B

10:35 - 10:55 g.m.

Break

Celebration Atrium

10:55 - 11:55 a.m.

GENERAL SESSION Trends in Retirement Plans

Connect B

11:55 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.

Lunch

Connect A

12:55 - 1:55 p.m.

**GENERAL SESSION** 

Navigating the Future of Benefits Insurance: Trends, Strategies & Solutions

Connect B

1:55 - 2:15 p.m.

Break

Celebration Atrium

2:15 - 3:15 p.m.

GENERAL SESSION

Beyond Boundaries: The Art of

Comfort Zone Expansion

Connect B

3:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Break

Celebration Atrium

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

GENERAL SESSION

Al Use & Ethics for Accountants

Connect B

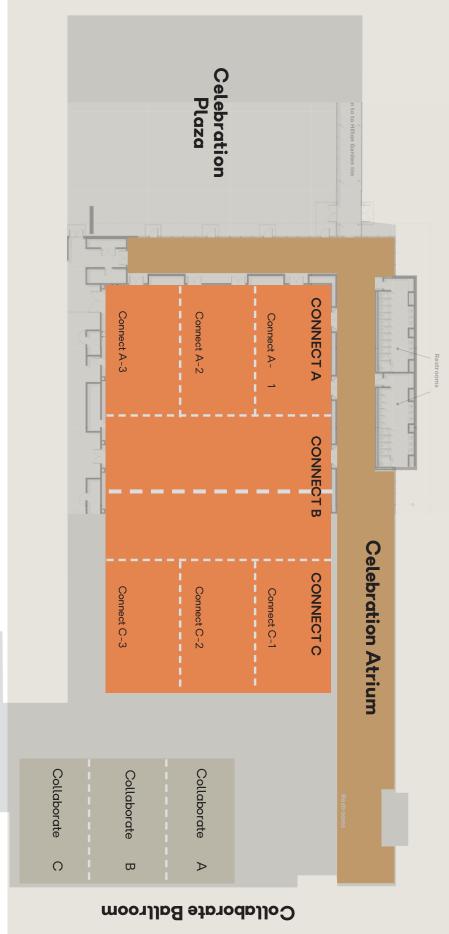
4:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks & Prize

Drawings

Connect B

# FLOOR PLANS AND CAPACITY CHARTS





Boardroom





**Simplify Daunting Requirements** 



**Stay Compliant** 

**>** 

**Avoid IRS Scrutiny** 

>

Attract Top Talent

## **Maximize**

## **Business Tax Credits, Incentives & Deductions**

Stop leaving money on the table!

Let's Start Optimizing Processes & Fueling Growth Together.

## **SERVICES**



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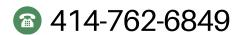
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Source: www.cpapracticeadvisor.com

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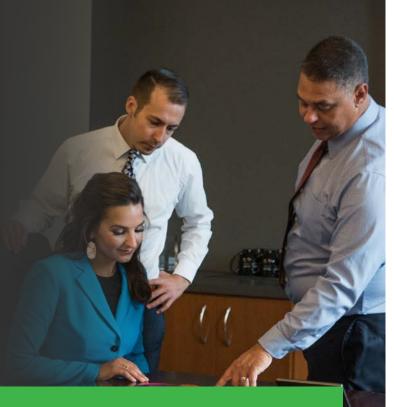
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Jerabek, J.D.

Terri S. Boxer,

J.D.

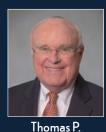


Kammerait,

J.D., CPA

Robert E. Dallman,

J.D., LL.M.







Thomas P. Guszkowski, J.D., LL.M.

Cindy L. Hangartne<u>r,</u> J.D., LL.M.





Marcus S. Loden, J.D., LL.M. Krishnaney J.D., MBA

Sumeeta A.







Jamie B. Barwin J.D., CPA

J.D.

Adam N. Skarie,

J.D.

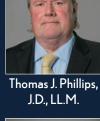


J.D., CPA

Steven M.

Szymanski,

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- We'll provide you with everything you need including a presentation, talking points, tips, resources and fun gifts for students!



## TOGETHER,

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Contributions to the WICPA Political Action Committee (CPAC) and Legislative Involvement Fund (LIF) allows the WICPA to:



Educate lawmakers about the issues impacting Wisconsin CPAs.



Ensure a healthy business climate for CPAs and the clients you serve.



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- Docated in Waukesha, just off I-94
- Coordinated catering and refreshments

### **Training Center**











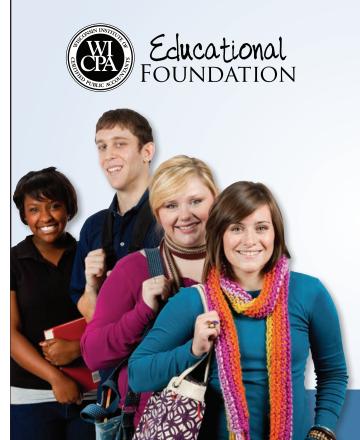
### **Executive Boardroom**







For more information, visit wicpa.org/MeetingSpaces, or to schedule a tour or reserve space, contact Rachella Fortier at rachella@wicpa.org or 262-785-0445 ext. 4505.



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*Questions?* Contact Tammy J. Hofstede, WICPA President and CEO at tammy@wicpa.org.

To contribute, visit wicpa.org/EF.



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Step up and shape tomorrow's accounting professionals by hosting high school students at your organization. The WICPA Educational Foundation's Accounting Awareness Grants provide funding for high school educators to bring students to you for a presentation or activity to learn more about accounting. By volunteering to host a class, your organization will:



Spark interest in the accounting profession



Strengthen the CPA pipeline with future talent

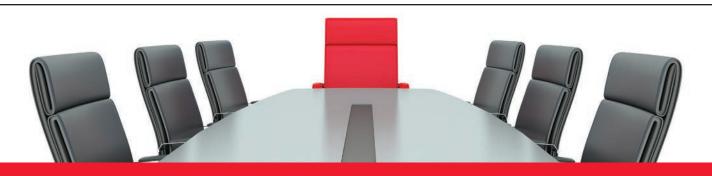


Showcase your internships & job shadow opportunities



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## Join the WICPA Board of Directors!

The WICPA is seeking members to serve on its board of directors.

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- Staying up to date on professional issues
- Providing strategic governance in accordance with the WICPA strategic plan, mission and vision
- Acquiring new leadership and training skills

Applicants must be WICPA CPA members in good standing. A "CPA member" is defined as a WICPA member who has obtained a certificate as a CPA from the Accounting Examining Board of the State of Wisconsin, or from a similar legally constituted authority in any other state, possession or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia.



To apply, visit wicpa.org/BoardApplication through Nov. 15, 2024.

**Questions?**Contact tammy@wicpa.org.



## Join the WICPA Educational Foundation Board!

The WICPA Educational Foundation is seeking members to serve on its board of directors.



### Some of the opportunities include:

- Assisting in efforts to attract students to the profession.
- Providing strategic governance in accordance with the WICPA Educational Foundation mission.
- Acquiring new leadership skills.

The WICPA Educational Foundation plays a pivotal role in supporting programs to improve awareness and perceptions by educating students and educators about the exciting opportunities available to accounting professionals.

To apply, visit wicpa.org/EFBoardApplication through March 1, 2025. Questions? Contact tammy@wicpa.org.

8:15 - 9:15 a.m.

## Southeast Wisconsin Business Climate Update

**Dale Kooyenga, CPA,** President, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce



## **BEST ASSETS**







People/ Quality
of the
Workforce



Strength of Economy

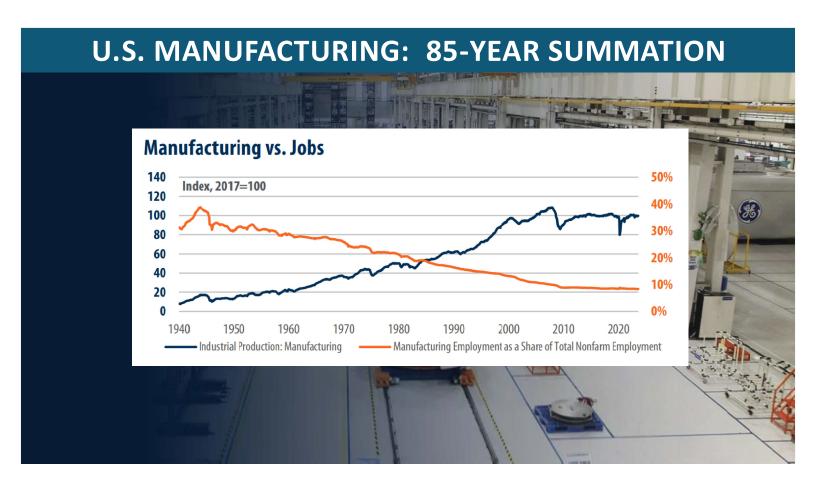


**Education** (Higher ed, and most K-12)



Climate Haven





## M7 REGION MFG. EMPLOYMENT CHANGE: 2001-23

## Production Occupations

2023: 105,360

-25%

-36,038 jobs

## Engineering Occupations

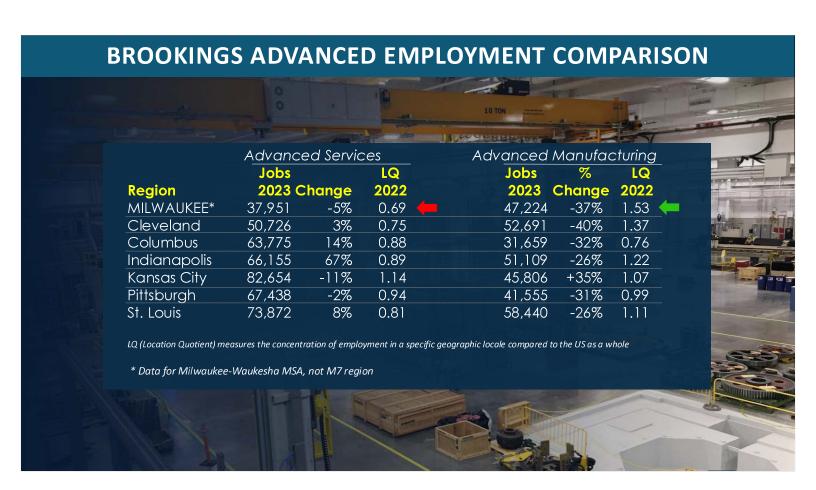
2023: 19,486

+4%

+722 jobs

## M7 REGION'S MANUFACTURING STORY - 10 OCCUPATIONS





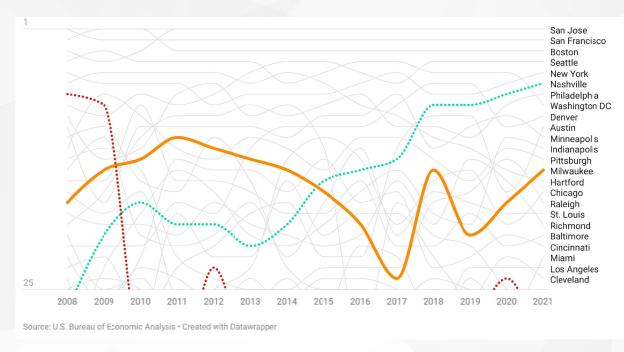


## Top 25 U.S. metros by per capita income

1	San Jose	\$106,026
2	San Francisco	\$89,632
3	Boston	\$73,050
4	Seattle	\$67,654
5	New York	\$64,511
6	Nashville	\$63,642
7	Philadelphia	\$63,342
8	Washington	\$63,025
9	Denver	\$62,160
10	Austin	\$61,940
11	Minneapolis	\$60,276
12	Indianapolis	\$60,124
13	Pittsburgh	\$59,975
14	Milwaukee	\$59,752
	Milwaukee Hartford	<b>\$59,752</b> \$59,711
	Hartford	
15	Hartford Chicago	\$59,711
15 16	Hartford Chicago Raleigh	\$59,711 \$59,294
15 16 17	Hartford Chicago Raleigh St. Louis	\$59,711 \$59,294 \$59,104
15 16 17 18	Hartford Chicago Raleigh St. Louis Richmond	\$59,711 \$59,294 \$59,104 \$58,427
15 16 17 18 19	Hartford Chicago Raleigh St. Louis Richmond Baltimore	\$59,711 \$59,294 \$59,104 \$58,427 \$58,373
15 16 17 18 19 20	Hartford Chicago Raleigh St. Louis Richmond Baltimore Cincinnati	\$59,711 \$59,294 \$59,104 \$58,427 \$58,373 \$58,281
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Hartford Chicago Raleigh St. Louis Richmond Baltimore Cincinnati	\$59,711 \$59,294 \$59,104 \$58,427 \$58,373 \$58,281 \$58,085
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Hartford Chicago Raleigh St. Louis Richmond Baltimore Cincinnati Miami	\$59,711 \$59,294 \$59,104 \$58,427 \$58,373 \$58,281 \$58,085 \$58,072
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Hartford Chicago Raleigh St. Louis Richmond Baltimore Cincinnati Miami Los Angeles	\$59,711 \$59,294 \$59,104 \$58,427 \$58,373 \$58,281 \$58,085 \$58,072 \$57,836

Personal income rankings 2021 – top 25 of 50 largest metros

## Rank Chart for Real Per Capita Personal Income



Metro Milwaukee

fastest increase (Nashville)

··· Largest decline (Charlotte)



## **BIGGEST LIABILITIES**



K-12 Education (MPS)



Crime (City)



Racial/ Economic Disparities



Workforce Shortages



Individual Tax Rates

## Prosperity Ranking by Race 20 peer metros

## White

- 1. Raleigh
- 2. Baltimore
- 3. Minneapolis
- 4. San Jose
- 5. Chicago
- 6. Milwaukee
- 7. Charlotte
- B. San Antonio
- 9. Nashville
- 10. Orlando
- 11. St. Louis
- 12. Kansas City
- 13. Salt Lake
- 14. Indianapolis
- 15. Cleveland
- 16. Portland
- 17. Detroit
- 18. Columbus
- 19. Cincinnati
- 20. Pittsburgh
- 21. Buffalo

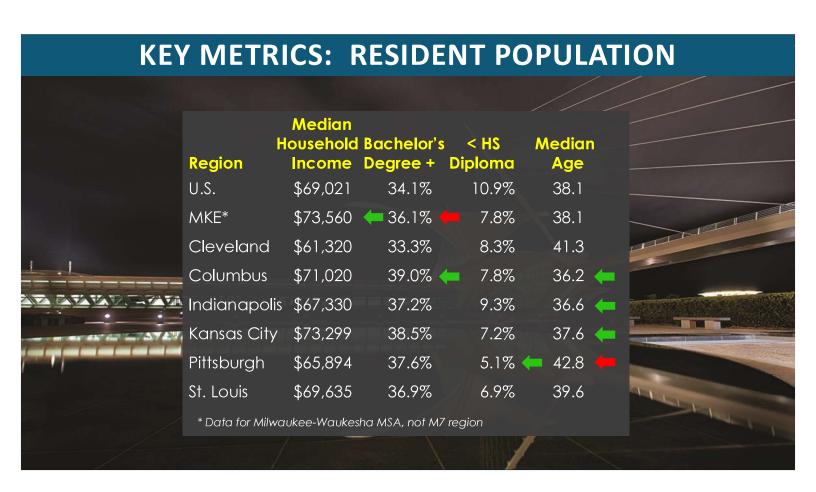
## **Black**

- 1. Raleigh
- 2. San Antionic
- 3. Charlotte
- 4. Baltimore
- 5. Portland
- C Nachville
- 7. Chica
- 3. Orlando
- 9. Indianapolis
- 10. Kansas City
- 11. Minneapolis
- 12. St. Louis
- 13. Columbus
- 14. Pittsburgh
- 15. Cincinnati
- 16. Louisville
- 17. Oklahoma City
- 18. Detroit
- 19. Cleveland
- 20. Buffalo
- 21. Milwaukee

## **Brown**

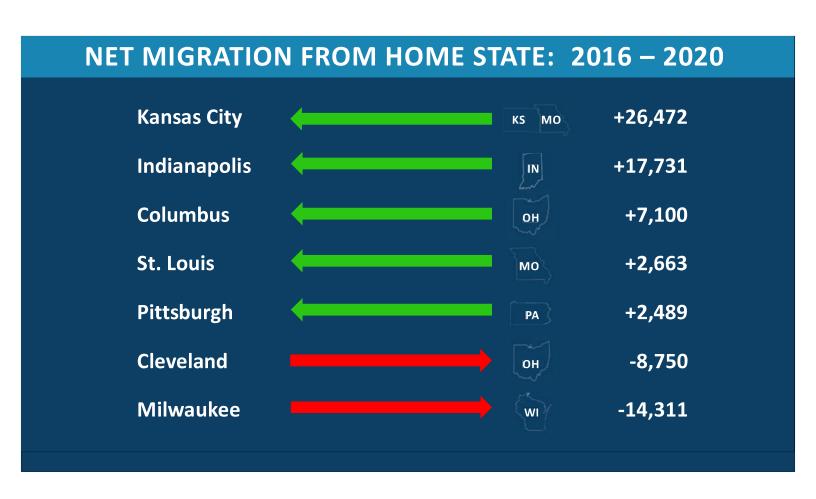
- l. St. Louis
- P Baltimore
- Columbus
- . Minneanolis
- 5. Detroi
- Indianapolis
- 7 Kansas Ci
- . . . . .
- 9 Orlando
- 10 Salt Lake
- 11 San Inco
- 12 Nachville
- i Si Cilariotti
- IF China
- 15. Unicago
- 16 Cincinna
- 17. Memphi
- 18. Raleigh
- 19. Cleveland
- 20. Milwaukee
- 21. Oklahoma City



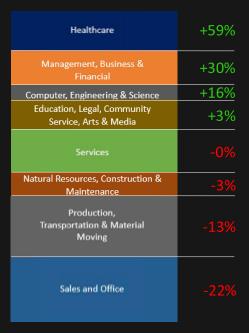




### **M7 NET MIGRATION: 2016 – 2020** U.S. Midwest Inbound Outstate 125,748 -14,311 WI Outbound 117,394 Net +17,428 Chicagomigration +8,354 land +5,983 +136 Outstate IA IN OH MN MI L

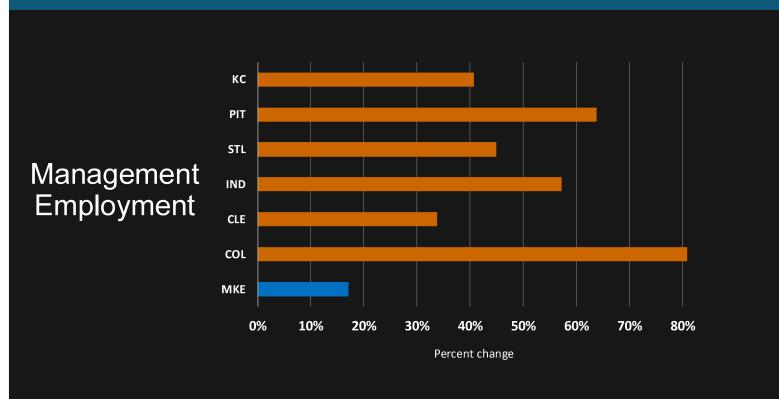


## **M7 REGION JOB CHANGE 2001 – 2023**

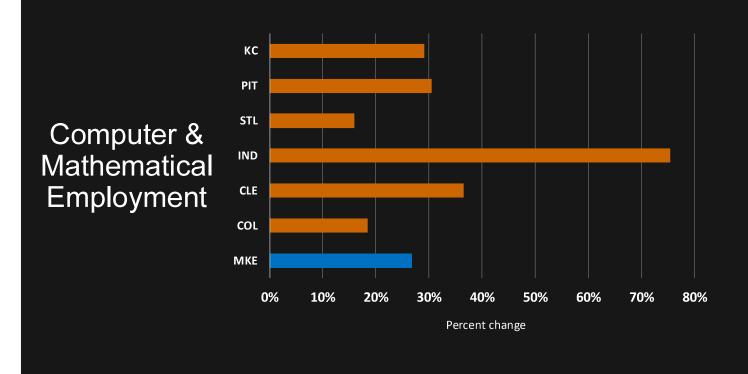


2023

## **REGIONAL JOB CHANGE 2001 – 2023**



## **REGIONAL JOB CHANGE 2001 – 2023**



## **HIGH-VALUE EMPLOYMENT CONCENTRATION – 2022**

Jobs paying > \$90,000/yr.

Industry	MKE LQ	Earnings Per Worker (US)	Projected US Job Growth Thru 2033
Management of companies & enterprises	1.84	\$169,626	15%
Professional, scientific & technical services	0.69	\$126,397	15%
Information	0.64	\$164,478	13%
Finance & insurance	1.02	\$148,730	10%_
Wholesale trade	1.17	\$109,087	4%_
Manufacturing	1.80	\$96,882	4%
Utilities	0.69	\$170,779	3%
Mining, quarrying & oil & gas extraction	0.15	\$139,264	3%

LQ (Location Quotient) measures the concentration of employment in a specific geographic locale compared to the US as a whole

## **Demographics Are Destiny**

## Metro Milwaukee

	POPULATION	2010-20	WORKING AGE BACHELOR'S DEGREE +	NO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	MEDIAN AGE
City	577,000	-3.0%	26.5%	14%	32.0
Metro	1,574,000	+1.2%	37.8%	8%	38.1
State	5,894,000	+3.6%	31.9%	7%	40.1

## MPS Referendum Vote

41,586 votes in favor (51%) 39,866 votes against (49%) Difference: 1,720 votes

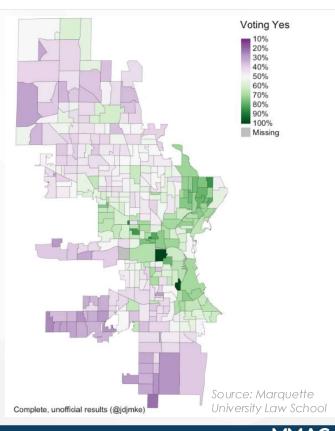
MTEA has 5,300 Education Workers in Milwaukee

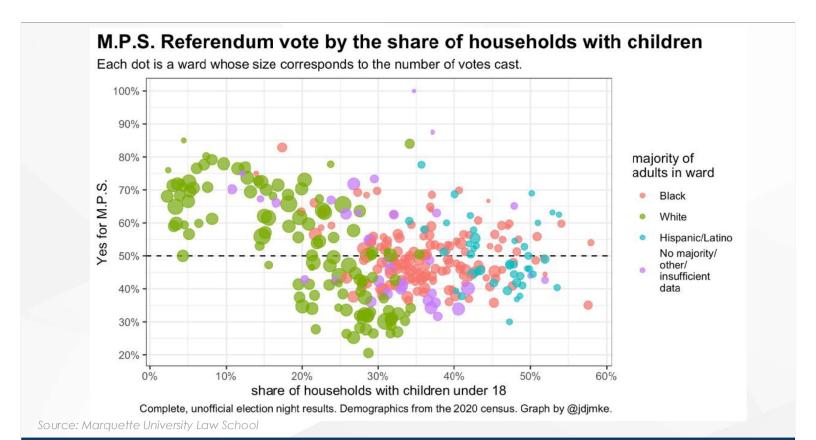
MPS has 8,593 FTEs / 10,000 Employees

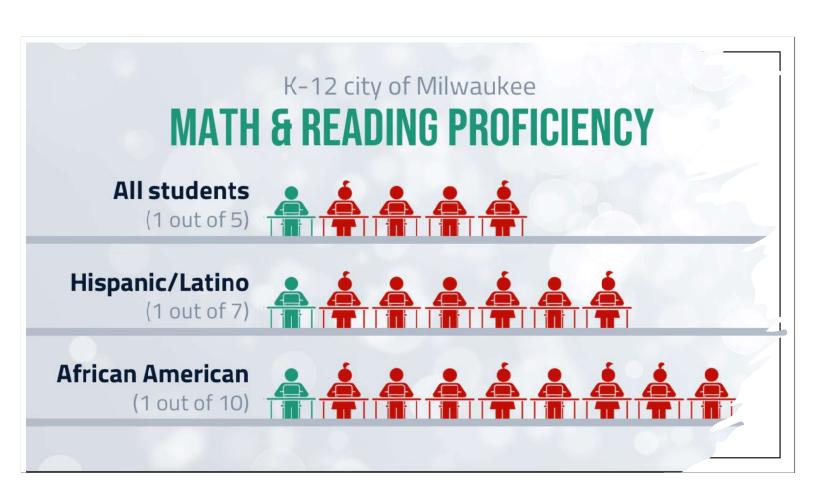
## The referendum vote was **No**

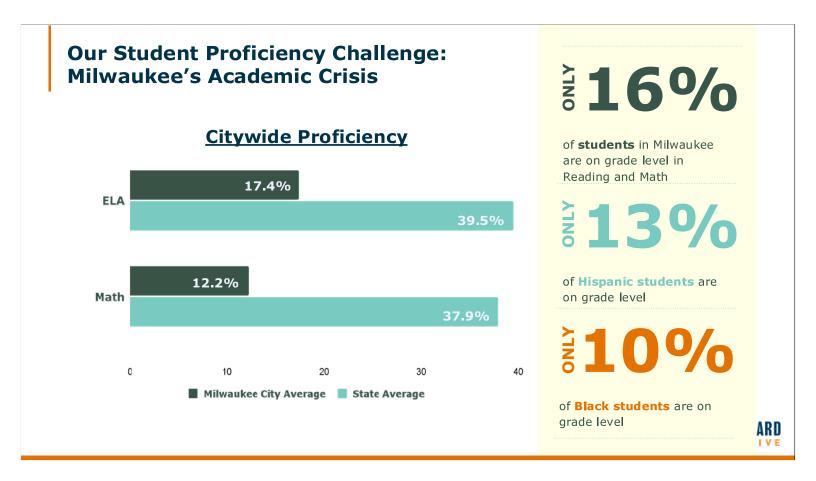
- in majority Latino wards
- in majority Black wards
- · in the majority of Milwaukee wards
- on election day
- wards with more children (larger households)

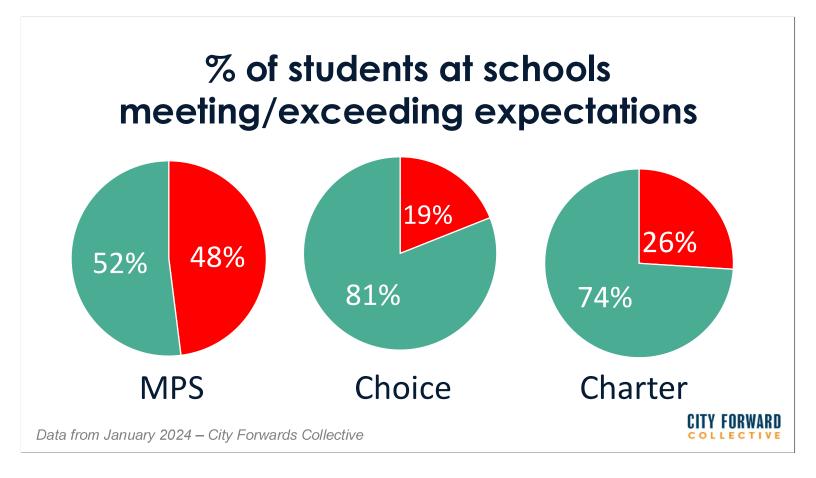
Yes in white wards
Yes on absentee ballots

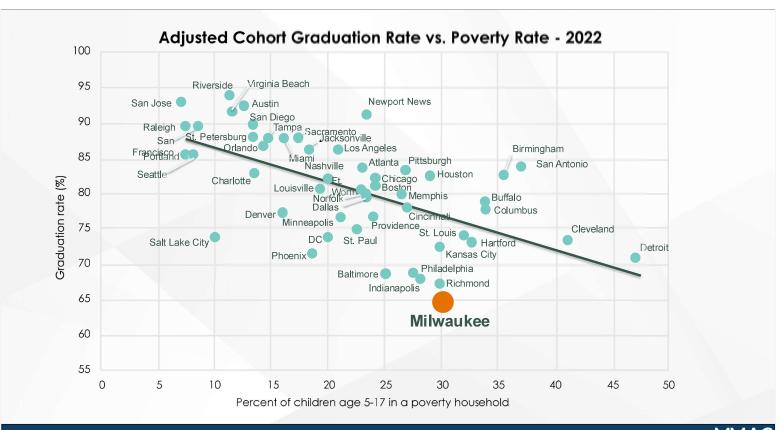




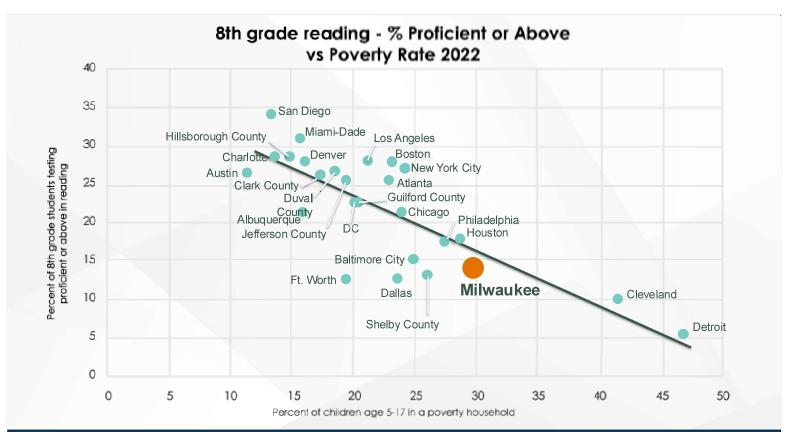












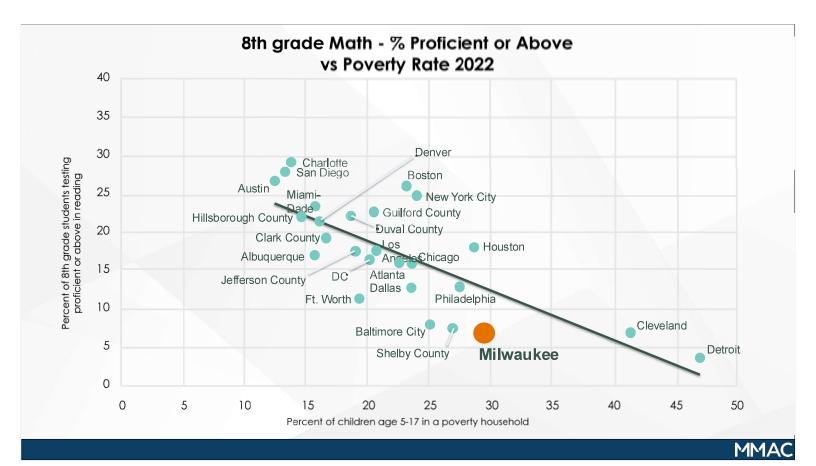


(i.e., Milwaukee as a Midwest talent

Align postsecondary engineering

schools with company needs

destination)



## **STRENGTHS WEAKNESSES** High household income Stagnant population growth • Competing talent destinations nearby (Chicago Proximity to Chicago Manufacturing pedigree; high and Madison) Milwaukee K-12 Education productivity • Significant base of large, global Lack of mid-income employment opportunities companies Low percentage of residents with 4-year Resiliency degree **OPPORTUNITIES THREATS** Continued loss of productions jobs Microsoft – Al Leadership · Further migration from Chicagoland Rise of Madison

south

regional assets

Tilting of U.S. industrial landscape to the

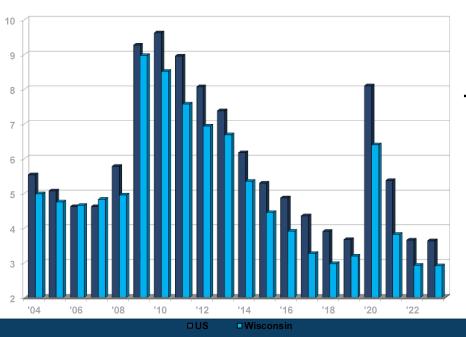
Misalignment of global growth sectors with



## **US to Wisconsin Unemployment Rates**



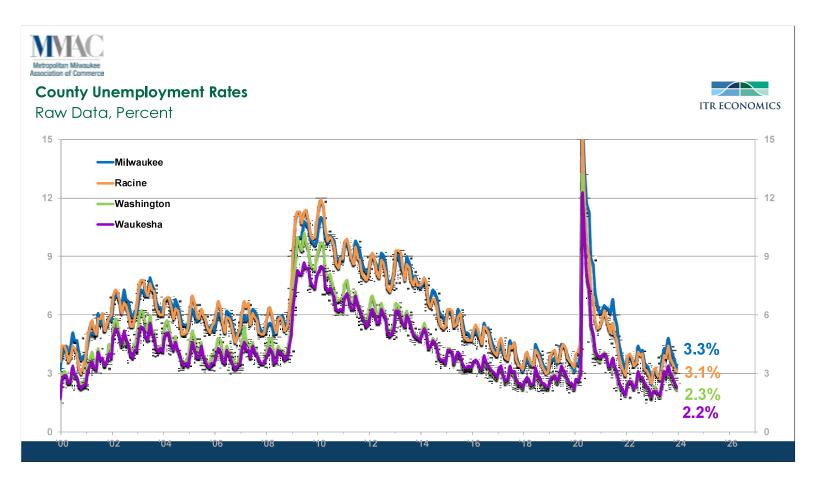


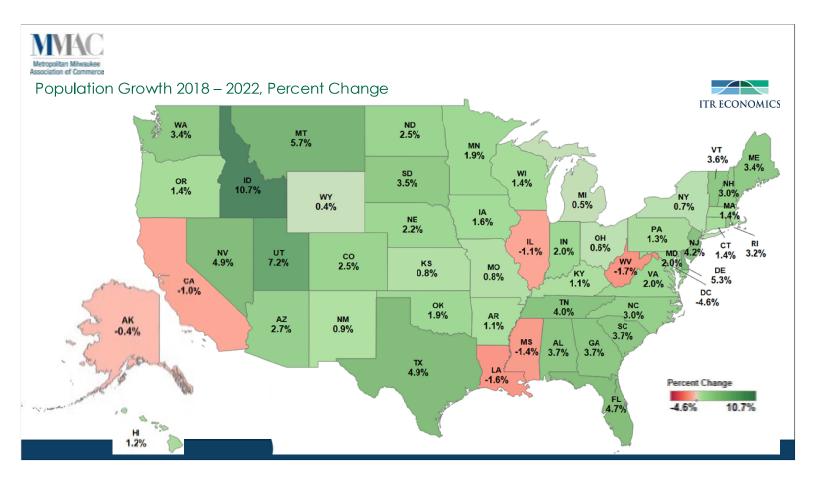


## **December 2023**

**US 3.7%** 

WI 3.3%



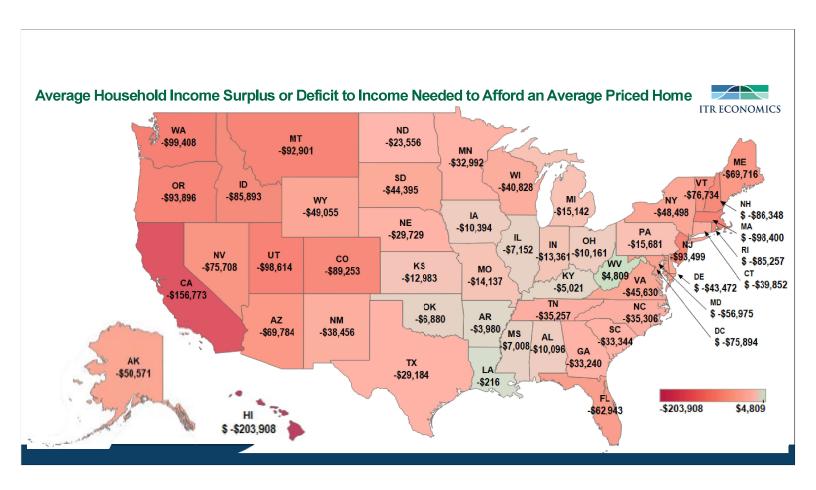




## Percent Change from Population Estimates 2018 to 2022



<u>Area</u>	<u>Growth Rate</u>
Milwaukee County	-3.0%
Waukesha County	2.0%
Ozaukee County	4.4%
Washington County	1.7%
Racine County	-0.3%
Kenosha County	-0.7%
Walworth County	1.8%
United States Total	2.0%



9:35 - 10:35 a.m.

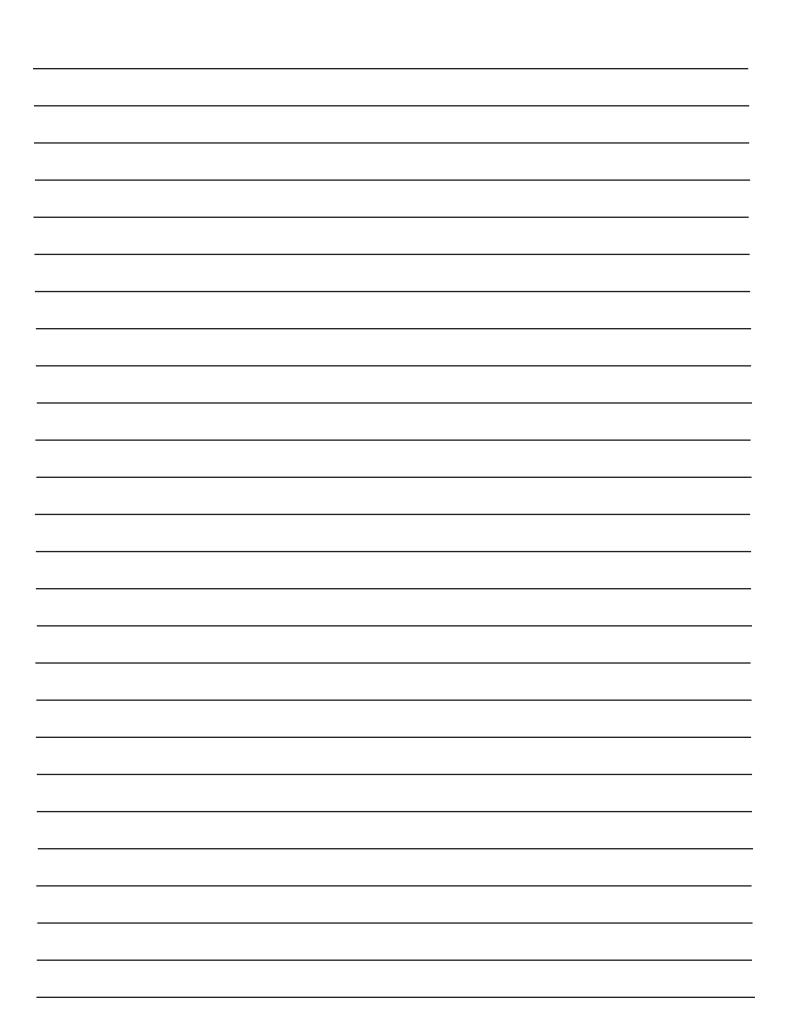
# **Employment Law Updates**

Geoff Trotier, J.D., Partner, Husch Blackwell LLP



# **Notes**

Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants
W233N2080 Ridgeview Parkway, Suite 201 | Waukesha, WI 53188 | wicpa.org



10:55 – 11:55 a.m.

## Trends in Retirement Plans

Manuel Rosado, MBA, President & Partner, Spectrum Investment Advisors



# **Trends in Retirement Plans**



Presented by: Manuel Rosado, MBA - President | Partner

October 22, 2024

## **Table of Contents**



## **Key Sections**

- Spectrum Update
- 5 Key Trends
  - · Service & Consolidation
  - Regulatory (SECURE 2.0)
  - Expanded investment alternatives
  - · Tax strategies
  - Financial wellness
- Summary & Q&A





## **Spectrum Update**

## **About Spectrum Investment Advisors**



\$4.43 Billion in assets as of 9/30/20241

29 years as Professional Retirement Plan Advisors

CFP® · CFA® · AIF® · CEBS® · CPFA™ · CPFC® · CRC® · GFS® · NQPA™ · Series 65

Registered Investment Advisor with the SEC<sup>2</sup>

- 1 \$4.03 billion under advisement, \$395 million under management. 2 Registration with the SEC does not imply a certain level of skill or training.



## **Core Services**



#### **Retirement Plans**

## Confidently design and manage a powerful plan.

Plan design consulting

Fiduciary training

Investment monitoring

401(k) | 403(b) | 457

Corporate | Non-Profit



#### **Financial Wellness**

## Drive engagement and productivity.

Targeted education

Individual advice

Customized action plan

One-on-one meetings

Digital & printable resources



## **Wealth Management**

## Turn financial goals into reality.

Holistic planning

Asset management

Income strategies

Rollovers | IRAs

Individual | Family | Trust



5

## **Awards and Recognition**

#### **Industry Leaders**

We are recognized as industry leaders for our work in the board room and break room.





Our award-winning workplace culture isn't just about us, it's about the ripple effect it creates for our clients. A collaborative, happy team enables us to serve our clients better and help them reach their goals.

**Great Place to Work** 





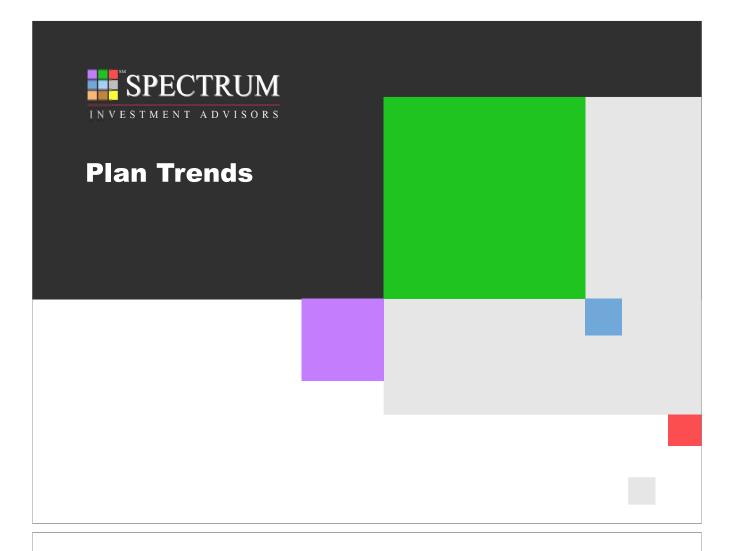




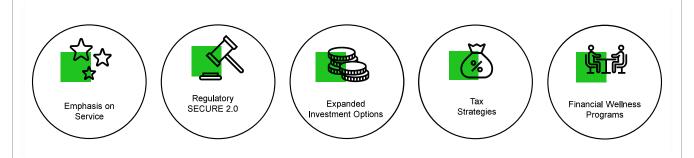


Spectrum was named a 2024 Top DC Advisor Team by the National Association of Plan Advisors (NAPA) on March 18, 2024. The award is based on self reported assets under advisement as of December 31, 2023. J Spectrum was named a 2023 Top Retirement Planning Services Provider in February 2023. These awards were based on data from 2022 respectively. Spectrum paid a licensing fee for use of this designation and logo. J Spectrum was named a winner by the National Association for Business Resources for the 2024 Milwaukee's Best and Brightest Companies to Work Fore on March 14, 2024. Responses to the survey were based on the time period of June 11, 2023 through December 20, 2023. Spectrum paid a licensing fee for use of this logo, J Spectrum was named a winner in the micro category for the Milwaukee Business-Journal's 2024 Best Places to Work. The rating was given on September 11, 2024 and results were based on the year 2024. Spectrum paid a licensing fee for use of this logo. J Spectrum was named a 2024 Best Places to Work for Financial Advisers by InvestmentNew February 28, 2022 and 2023 respectively. Spectrum paid a licensing fee for use of this designation and logo, J Spectrum was named a Best Place to Work in Money Management for 2022 by Pensions & Investments (P&I). The rating was awarded on December 12, 2022 and previously on December 6, 2021, December 9, 2019 and December 4, 2017. The recognition is based on data from 2022, 2020. December 9, 2019 and December 9, 2019 and December 4, 2017. The recognition is based on data from 2022, 2020. December 9, 2019 and D





## **Retirement Plan Trends**



- Service Shift from cost-driven decisions to seeking expertise and quality services
- SECURE 2.0 New provisions for plan sponsors to consider and adapt
- Expanded Investments CITs, guaranteed income products
- Integration of Health & Wealth Tax benefit and investment opportunity for Health Savings Accounts
- Financial Wellness Employees value guidance and access to financial planning



## **Recordkeeping Platforms**

#### **TOP 40 DC RECORD KEEPERS BY ASSETS**

In millions, as of December 31, 2022

	RANK	RECORD KEEPER	ASSETS	PLANS	PARTICIPANTS
	1	Fidelity Investments	\$2,874,561	34,902	29,947,387
	2	Empower	\$1,231,212	80,401	16,830,193
	3	Alight Solutions	\$1,162,944	228	11,713,594
	4	TIAA	\$643,049	23,429	6,718,095
	5	Vanguard	\$624,938	32,567	5,989,246
	6	Voya Financial	\$454,218	52,479	6,654,060
	<b>&gt;</b> 7	Principal Financial Group	\$449,988	46,769	11,200,948
=	<b>→</b> 8	Ascensus	\$253,475	95,289	4,377,914
	9	Bank of America Corporation	\$247,058	1,013	4,853,266
	10	T. Rowe Price	\$221,562	7,695	2,304,004
	11	Schwab Retirement Plan Services, Inc.	\$215,978	1,178	1,547,339
	12	John Hancock	\$180,816	53,838	3,213,653
	13	Transamerica Retirement Solutions LLC (Transa	\$174,176	21,408	3,392,064
	14	Nationwide Financial	\$165,559	31,683	2,705,652
	15	ADP	\$100,648	85,881	3,706,475
	16	Capital Group, home of American Funds	\$89,976	65,959	1,423,351
	17	Lincoln Financial Group	\$88,735	22,385	1,661,799
	18	Corebridge Retirement Services*	\$74,670	23,851	1,992,209
	19	MissionSquare Retirement (formerly ICMA-RC)	\$59,743	6,810	1,514,072
	20	OneAmerica	\$57,272	10,745	1,109,338

RANK	RECORD KEEPER	ASSETS	PLANS	PARTICIPANTS
21	Paychex, Inc.	\$41,291	109,096	1,832,37
22	The Standard	\$40,942	6,083	1,101,29
23	Milliman, Inc.	\$38,597	1,002	967,80
24	Equitable	\$38,566	25,394	1,070,56
25	NWPS	\$37,117	959	416,81
26	Alerus Retirement and Benefits	\$30,369	7,116	367,35
27	PCS Retirement	\$23,615	19,689	418,57
28	EPIC Retirement Plan Services	\$20,200	5,322	273,26
29	Mutual of American Financial Group	\$17,369	17,053	637,41
30	Ameritas	\$14,917	8,228	262,20
31	CUNA Mutual Group	\$14,240	7,932	220,18
32	GuideStone Financial Resources	\$13,534	2,061	218,69
33	Sentinel Benefits & Financial Group	\$10,104	1,307	144,56
34	BOK Financial	\$8,428	664	140,86
35	J.P. Morgan Asset Management	\$8,215	1,658	146,77
36	Guideline	\$7,349	37,306	674,26
37	Associated Bank**	\$5,219	457	74,83
38	July Business Services	\$4,801	3,316	73,28
39	Human Interest	\$3,453	10,728	367,53
40	Correll Co.	\$2,007	743	69,00

\$9,752,081 964,869

Source: PLANSPONSOR, 2023 Recordkeeping Survey - June 30, 2023
"Through its Retirement Services recordkeepers VALIC & VALIC Retirement Services Company (VRSCO)

\*\*This provider is not included in the 2023 PLANSPONSOR Recordkeeping Survey - data as of 12/31/22 Source: AssociatedBank, Johnson Bank



9

## **SECURE Act 2.0**

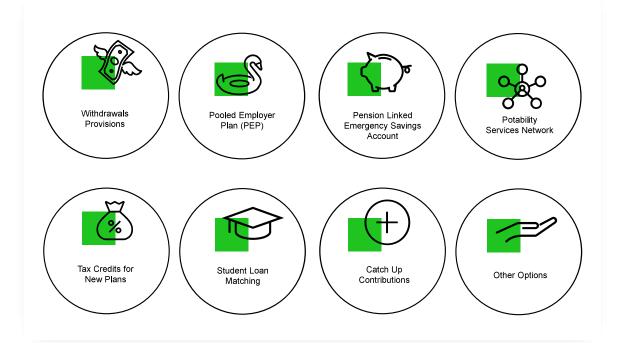
## **Keeping Plan Sponsors Informed**

- SECURE Act 2.0 Summary
- Signed into law December 29, 2022
- **Expands Coverage and Increase Retirement** Savings
- Improve Retirement Outcomes
- Ease of Administration
- Provisions effective 2023-2027





## **SECURE Act 2.0**





11

## **Withdrawal Provisions**

- Increased Force Out Limit to \$7,000
- Self-Certification for Hardship Withdrawals
- Penalty-Free Withdrawals
  - Victims of Domestic Abuse
  - Federally Declared Disasters
  - Terminal Illness
  - Emergency Savings
- All of the above are Optional Provisions

## **Pooled Employer Plans (PEPs)**

- Allows multiple unrelated businesses to share a 401(k) plan
- PEPs are managed by a pooled plan provider (PPP)
- One investment lineup across all plans typically managed by a 3(38) fiduciary manager
- Providers can allow for each company to set their own plan parameters
- One plan audit
- Requires termination of existing plan and starting a new plan (auto features)



Source: Secure Act 2.0

13

## **Emergency Savings Account**

- Short-term emergency savings accounts linked to retirement plan provider
- May automatically enroll at a rate of up to 3% of compensation (fiduciary safe harbor for automatic enrollment)
- Contributions are capped at \$2,500 (after-tax contributions only)
- Invested in cash, interest bearing deposit accounts, and principal preservation accounts
- Participants must be allowed to take at least one withdrawal per month, and the first four withdrawals per year cannot be subject to fees
- There cannot be minimum contribution or balance requirements



## **Portability Services Network**

- Automatic movement of a terminated participant's small balance account (increase to \$7,000) from a former employer's retirement plan to an active account at a new employer's plan
- Network of initial providers participating (Alight, Empower, Fidelity, Principal, Vanguard, TIAA) with more to join
- Plan sponsors chose to opt in to this service different process for each provider
- · Participants pay for the service
  - One-time transfer fee: Maximum charge is \$30, but accounts with less than \$600 will be charged 5% of balance, and accounts with less than \$50 will be processed at no charge
- · Issues with Roth balances



15

## **Tax Credits**

## **Tax Credits for New Plans**

- Up to 50 employees can claim up to 100% of the start-up administration costs (max \$5,000) for 3 years.
- Up to 100 employees, 100% tax credit for employer contributions up to \$1k per employee making <\$100k for 1 year then phased out by 25% over the next 3 years.

## New Plans Require Automatic Enrollment and Escalation (2025)

- Auto enroll deferral amount between 3 10%
- Auto increases by 1% up to 10 15% per year.



## **Matching Options**

## **Matching Student Loans**

 Option to apply the matching formula to the student loan repayment amount and deposit the match into the workplace retirement savings plan

## **Roth Employer Contributions**

- Option to allow matching or nonelective contributions as Roth contributions
- · Applicable only to vested contributions



17

## **Catch-Up Contributions**

## Catch-Up Contributions (2025)

• Employees between the ages 60 - 63 years will be allowed to increase their catch-up contribution to the greater of 150% of the normal catch-up amount or \$10,000 in 401(k), 403(b), and governmental plans

## Catch-Up Contributions must be Roth for certain savers (2026)

 For participants over age 50 earning more than \$145,000, catch-up contributions need to be made as Roth contribution



## **Other SECURE 2.0 Provisions**

## Paper Statement Mandate (2026)

• For defined contribution plans-401(k) and 403(b)-must provide at least one paper statement/year unless participant opts out.

## Improving Retirement Plan Access for Part-Time Workers (2025)

- Long-term, part-time employees who meet the eligibility requirements will be allowed to save through the company's retirement plan.
- The stated eligibility rules are for employees who work for two consecutive 12-month periods during each of which they have at least 500 hours of service.
- Employers are not required to match contributions.



19

## **Expanded Investment Options**









## **In-Plan Income Solutions**

Designed to convert participant retirement savings into an income stream customized to their individual needs.

#### **Important Factors**



Cost



Portability



Accessibility



Education

#### **New Options Available**

- Target date fund series managing the glide path allocations implementing an annuity
- · A spend-down strategy and proprietary variable annuity
- Access to an annuity marketplace that offers a wide range of out-of-plan annuity offerings
- Managed accounts with a guaranteed lifetime withdrawal benefit



21

## **CIT - Collective Investment Trusts**

- Similar structure to a mutual fund
  - Pooled investment vehicle from multiple investors in a single portfolio with a specific investment strategy (no tickers)
  - Many investment firms building CIT's that replicate existing mutual funds
  - CITs are regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency or state banking regulators; mutual funds have Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration requirements
- CITs are administered by a bank or trust company
- Only available to qualified retirement plans and require a contract
- Can have negotiated fee structures based on assets under management

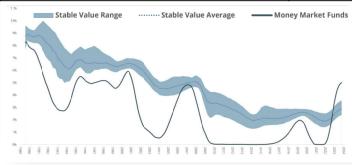


## **Stable Value Funds Overview**

What are they?	Are guarantees involved?	Are they risk-free?
Low risk, capital preservation investment options available to retirement plans	Yes, generally return of principal and may include minimum crediting rate (e.g. 1%)	No, ultimately the risk is in the strength of the party providing the guarantee

Are participant withdrawals restricted?	Restrictions on plan level withdrawals?	Other Restrictions?
No, participants are offered full daily liquidity	Yes, a full plan withdrawal or exchange may require 12-24 months notice and/or may be subject to an MVA	Plans with a stable value fund are generally not allowed to offer money market or short-term bond funds

What are the fees?	Are they common in retirement plans?
Stable value fund fees are generally comparable to an actively managed mutual fund	75% of 401(k) plans offer a stable value fund (Alight Solutions Trends & Experience in DC Plan Survey)



Stable value funds have a history of providing continuously positive returns throughout both times of rising interest rates and challenging periods such as the dot-com bubble, financial crisis and COVID-19.

Source: Stable Value Association, Reliance MetLife; as of 3/31/2023

Stable Value" is represented as a composite of the historical returns derived from data collected by the SVIA for its four stable value market segments (individually managed accounts, pooled funds, insurance company seperal accounts, and insurance company seperal accounts), Historical return data is presented as both a range (with the top and bottom deciles removed) and as an average.



Data from 1989 to 2008 was collected from stable value managers to form a composite for use in research conducted by David Babbel and Miguel Herce, and data from 2008 to present is sourced from the SVIA'S Quarterly Characteristics Survey with the pended from 2008 to 2015 derived from reported crediting rate data. Returns are gross of stable value management fees but net of fees necessary to deliver the product, such as stable value want, hirtip artly fixed income management, trust, custody, and fund administrative is composed of varying types of stable value products and, as such, should not be used as a comparison to a specific product. "Money Market" is a simulation of money market returns from the MoneyNet MFR Money Funds Index. Returns illustrated are gross before any tees. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

23

## **Personalization of Investments**

## **Managed Accounts**

- Professional money manager on behalf of an investor
- Online questionnaires and account aggregation tools to provide more specific advice
- · Additional fees: manager, recordkeeper, advisor

## **Target Date Funds**

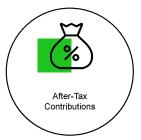
Multiple risk levels of target date fund glide paths

#### ΑI

- Use of AI tools to a personalized online experience
- Personalized communication



## **Tax Strategies**







- · After-Tax Allows for contribution levels beyond annual contribution limits
- Mega Back-Door Roth Convert after-tax contributions to Roth account (401k or IRA)
- HSA Triple tax-free savings account devoted to tackling health-care costs



25

## **After-Tax Contributions & Roth Conversion**

\$34,500
Your Mega Backdoor
Roth contribution

\$11,500
Employer match

\$23,000
Your pre-tax contribution

\$76,500

\$34,500

Your Mega Backdoor
Roth contribution

\$11,500
Employer match
\$7,500
Catch-up contribution

\$23,000
Your pre-tax contribution

Under 50

50 or older

- Plan must allow for After-Tax contributions & in-plan Roth conversions
- Note: Non-discrimination testing applies to after-tax contributions part of ACP test



## **Integration of Health & Wealth**

## **Health Savings Account**

- Requires high-deductible health insurance plan
- Contributions are not subject to federal taxes (and most state)
- · Earnings in the account grow tax-free
- No expiration date so money is available for future health expenses
- Withdrawals for medical related expenses are tax-free
- Ability to implement investment options for long-term potential growth
- Many 401(k) providers offering these services and matching investment lineup
- Contribution limits:
  - 2024: \$4,150 for individuals and \$8,300 for family
  - 2025: \$4,300 for individuals and \$8,600 for family
  - \$1,000 catch-up for those over Age 55 and not enrolled in Medicare



27

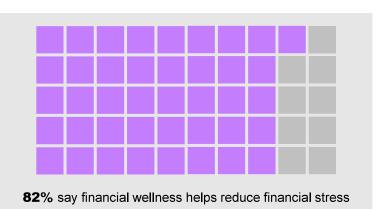
## **Managing Financial Stress**

Financially healthier employees are likely to be happier and more productive.



3.3 hours

is the average time spent on finances at work each month



78% are more loyal to an employer who offers financial wellness

70% say access to financial wellness resources increases productivity

John Hancock. "Financial Stress Survey." 2023.



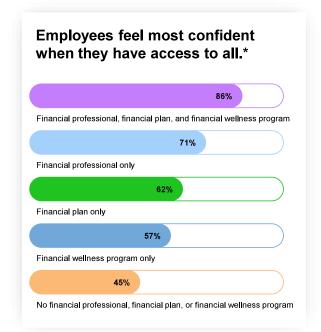
## **How to Build Financial Confidence**

## Primary drivers of financial confidence:\*

- · Work with a financial professional
- · Have a financial plan
- Access to workplace financial wellness program
- Unbiased financial advice on a wide range of topics\*\*

Individuals who work with a financial professional are **3x more likely** 

to report ahead-of-schedule retirement savings.\*



\*John Hancock. "Financial Stress Survey." 2023.
\*\*Harvard Business Review. "It's Time to Prioritize Employees' Financial Health." 2 Jan. 2024.



29

## **Spectrum's Financial Wellness Program**



Spectrum's own proprietary technology was built to maximize communication and track progress





## **Retirement Plan Trends**







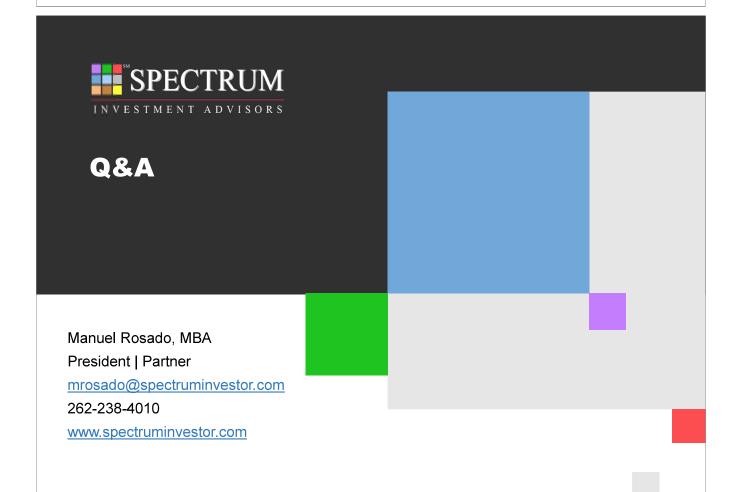




- Service Shift from cost-driven decisions to seeking expertise and quality services
- SECURE 2.0 New provisions for plan sponsors to consider and adapt
- Expanded Investments CITs, guaranteed income products
- Integration of Health & Wealth Tax benefit and investment opportunity for Health Savings Accounts
- Financial Wellness Employees value guidance and access to financial planning



31





# Additional information

## **Guiding Principles**



#### We are Understanding

By involving and connecting with clients, partners, and colleagues at a deeper level



#### We Are Engaging

By delivering a fulfilling experience and thinking more like a partner than a provider



## We are Passionate

By approaching daily work with energy and enthusiasm to make a positive impact in people's lives



#### We Act With Integrity

By putting clients first and being guided by strong ethical principles



## We Are Accountable

By acting as a fiduciary, leading by example, keeping everyone informed, delivering results, and embracing growth



#### We Live Balanced Lives

By being fully present at work and at home



## We Function as a Team

By collaborating, trusting each other, and helping others succeed to achieve more



#### We Give Back

By getting involved in our community and making it a better place to live and work



#### We Celebrate

By enjoying the ride, honoring accomplishments, and letting happiness shine through



## We Think Long-Term

By stewarding resources and making thoughtful decisions that will benefit future generations



## **Meeting Your Needs**



#### Strategic Plan Management



**Fiduciary** Governance



#### Investment Monitoring



**Employee Engagement** 

- · Plan quarterback
- · Plan design consulting
- Recordkeeping partner reviews & benchmarking
- Lead search for new partners when necessary
- M&A consulting
- Technical support

- · Fiduciary at the plan & participant level
- Fiduciary training
- Decision documentation
- Operations & compliance reviews
- Expense analysis & benchmarking
- Investment Policy Development
- · Fund menu design
- Independent investment advice & monitoring
- · Performance scorecard
- · Manager searches
- · Custom model portfolios

- · Group education
- · 1-on-1 meetings
- · Advice through implementation
- · English & Spanish
- · In person, phone, web
- · Financial wellness

## Comprehensive Plan Consulting



35

## **Exceeding Expectations**

## Why Work With an Advisor?

A national survey\* annually assesses what plan sponsors are looking for in an advisor.

The top 4 reasons include:

- · Financial Wellness & Employee Engagement
- · Investment Menu Insights
- Compliance & Regulatory Updates
- · Proactive Plan Performance Suggestions



\* <u>Plan Sponsor Attitudes Survey, 2023 & 2022</u>.
The survey results presented above were provided by current clients of Spectrum Investment Advisors, All clients were invited to voluntarily participate in a satisfaction survey, however, no cash or non-cash compensation was provided in exchange for their participation. The results presented may not reflect the sentiments of all clients, and we encourage you to independently evaluate our services based on additional criteria that you deem appropriate.



## **SECURE Act 2.0**

#### Non-Elective Provisions:

#### Required Minimum Distributions

Individuals can wait until age 73 (previously 72) to take a mandatory retirement savings withdrawal. Starting 2033, the RMD age is increased to 75 years old.

#### Required Minimum Distribution Excise Tax Reduction

Missed RMD penalty is reduced from 50% to 25% and if the failure is corrected in a timely manner, the penalty is reduced to 10%.

#### Tax Credits for New Plans

For new retirement plans, companies with up to 50 employees can claim up to 100% of the start-up administration costs (max \$5,000) for 3 years. Plans up to 100 employees 100% tax credit for employer contributions up to \$1k per employee making <\$100k for 1 year then phased out by 25% over the next 3 years

Expand Self-Correction Program
Allows for easier plan corrections of loans through the Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System ("EPCRS").

#### **Unnecessary Notices**

Employers are no longer required to provide certain intermittent ERISA or Code notices to unenrolled participants provided they send an annual reminder notice of the employee's eligibility and any otherwise required documents requested by the

#### IRA Charitable Distributions (known as QCDs)

The IRA charitable distribution provision is expanded to allow for one-time \$50,000 distributions to charities. Annual IRA charitable distribution limit of \$100,000 is now

## PEPs – 403(b) Are now available.

#### **Elective Provisions:**

#### Small Incentive for Contribution to a Plan

Employers can now offer low-dollar amount incentives, such as gift cards, as long as they are not paid from plan assets.

#### Roth Employer Contributions

Employers may now choose to allow matching or nonelective contributions as Roth contributions. Applicable only to vested contributions. Additional guidance expected for tax implications.

#### **Military Spouses**

Creates a new nonrefundable income tax credit for eligible small employers that employ military spouses and allow them to participate in the employer's defined contribution plan, subject to special eligibility and vesting requirements. The tax credit is \$200 per participating non-highly compensated military spouse plus 100% of employer contributions, up to an additional \$300 per employee, for up to three years.

Hardship Distributions – Self Certify
Allows a plan administrator to rely on an employee's self-certification that they have had a safe harbor event that constitutes a deemed hardship for purposes of taking a hardship withdrawal from a 401(k) plan or a 403(b) plan.
The administrator can also rely on the employee's certification that the distribution is

not in excess of the amount required to satisfy the financial need and that the employee has no alternative means reasonably available to satisfy the financial need.

#### Hardship Distributions - 403(b) Plans

May now include employer contributions.

#### Penalty-Free Withdrawals: Terminal Illness

Terminally ill individuals may withdraw retirement funds without being subject to the 10% early distribution tax penalty.

Penalty-Free Withdrawals: Federally Declared Disasters
Up to \$22,000 withdrawal for affected individuals and are not subject to the 10% early distribution tax penalty. (Retroactively effective to January 26, 2021.)



Source: Secure Act 2.0

37

## **SECURE Act 2.0**

#### Effective 2024

#### **Non-Elective Provisions:**

#### Required Minimum Distributions for Roth Accounts

Roth accounts within 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans and 457 plans are no longer subject to required minimum distribution (RMD) rules.

#### Retirement Lost and Found

Directs the DOL to create an online searchable "Lost and Found" database to collect information on benefits owed to missing, lost or non-responsive participants and beneficiaries in tax-qualified retirement plans and to assist such plan participants and beneficiaries in locating those benefits.

#### Starter 401(k) Plans - A new type of 401(k) Plan

Creates two new plan designs for employers that do not sponsor a retirement plan: a "starter 401(k) deferral only arrangement" and a "safe harbor 403(b) plan." These plans would generally require that all employees be enrolled in the plan with a deferral rate of 3% to 15% of compensation. The limit on annual deferrals would be the same as the IRA contribution limit (\$6,000 for 2022, with an additional \$1,000 catch-up beginning at age 50). The limit on annual deferrals is \$6,000, with an additional \$1,000 catch-up beginning at age 50, with both limits indexed for inflation.

#### 529 Rollovers

Allows certain assets in a 529 qualified tuition program account maintained for at least 15 years for a designated beneficiary to be directly rolled over on a tax-free basis to a Roth IRA maintained for the benefit of the beneficiary. The rollover is subject to the limits on Roth IRA contributions and the requirement that a Roth IRA owner have includible compensation at least equal to the amount of the rollover. Permitted rollovers would be limited to (1) the aggregate amount of contributions to the account (and earnings thereon) before the 5-year period ending on the date of rollover, and (2) a lifetime limit of \$35,000.

#### **Elective Provisions:**

#### Force-Out Distribution Threshold

Increase force out limit from \$5,000 to \$7,000

Matching Student Loans
Option to apply the matching formula to the student loan repayment amount and deposit the match into the workplace retirement savings plan.

#### **Automatic Portability**

Permits retirement plan service providers to offer plan sponsors automatic portability services, transferring an employee's low balance retirement accounts to a new plan when they change jobs.

Pension Linked ("Side Car") Emergency Savings Account (PLESAs)
Permits a plan sponsor to amend its plan to offer short-term emergency savings
accounts ("ESAs") as part of a defined contribution plan. ESAs must be funded posttax with Roth contributions, and participants may be automatically enrolled at a rate of up to 3% of compensation. Contributions are capped at \$2500 (indexed for inflation) or a lower amount determined by the sponsor, and there cannot be minimum contribution or balance requirements. Participants must be allowed to take at least one withdrawal per month, and the first four withdrawals per year cannot be subject to fees. ESAs may be invested in cash, interest bearing deposit accounts, and principal preservation accounts, and there is a fiduciary safe harbor for automatic enrollment. The provision provides for the preemption of state anti-garnishment laws.

#### Emergency Withdrawals

Allows one penalty-free withdrawal of up to \$1,000 per year for "unforeseeable or immediate financial needs relating to personal or family emergency expenses." The withdrawal may be repaid within three years. Only one withdrawal per three-year repayment period is permitted if the first withdrawal has not been repaid.

Penalty-Free Withdrawals for Victims of Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse survivors may withdraw the lesser of \$10,000 or 50% of their vested retirement account.



## **SECURE Act 2.0**

## Effective 2025 & Beyond

#### Non-Elective Provisions (2025):

#### Improving Retirement Plan Access for Part-Time Workers (2025)

Long-term, part-time employees who meet the eligibility requirements will be allowed to save through the company's retirement plan. The stated eligibility rules are for employees who work for two consecutive 12-month periods during each of which they have at least 500 hours of service. Employers are not required to match contributions.

Non-Elective Provisions (2026 & 2027):

Plan amendments made pursuant to this Act may be made on or before the last day of the first plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2025. (For calendar year plans, that deadline is 12/31/25.) In addition, amendments under SECURE Act, CARES Act, and Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020 conform to these new dates.

#### New Plans: Automatic Enrollment and Escalation (2025)

All new 401(k) and 403(b) plans implemented after 1/1/23 are required to automatically enroll participants and auto-escalate savings. The employer will set the introductory deferral amount between 3 – 10% and the deferral amount increases by 1% up to 10 – 15% retirement savings per year.

Paper Statement Mandate (2026)
For defined contribution plans-401(k) and 403(b)-must provide at least one paper statement/year unless participant opts out.

#### Catch-Up Contributions (2025)

Employees between the ages 60 - 63 years will be allowed to increase their catch-up contribution to the greater of 150% of the normal catch-up amount or \$10,000 in 401(k), 403(b), and governmental plans. For individuals who make more than \$145,000, the catch-up must be a Roth contribution.

Catch-Up Contributions must be Roth for certain savers (2026)

For participants over age 50 earning more than \$145,000, catch-up contributions need to be made as Roth contribution.

#### Enhance and Promote Saver's Match (2027)

Modifies the existing Saver's Credit to make it refundable and turns it into a direct government matching contribution to the taxpayer's IRA or eligible retirement plan. Enhances and simplifies the Saver's Credit by creating one credit percentage (with no tiers) of 50% for all savers below the AGI threshold (\$41,000 for joint filers), at which point the credit phases out. The credit is treated as a pre-tax contribution to the recipient's plan or IRA, meaning it will be taxable when distributed.



Source: Secure Act 2.0

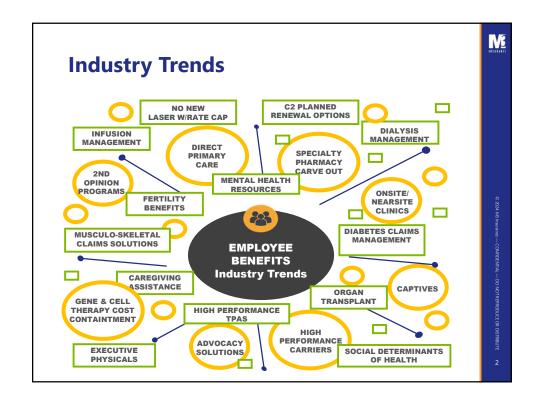
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12:55 - 1:55 p.m.

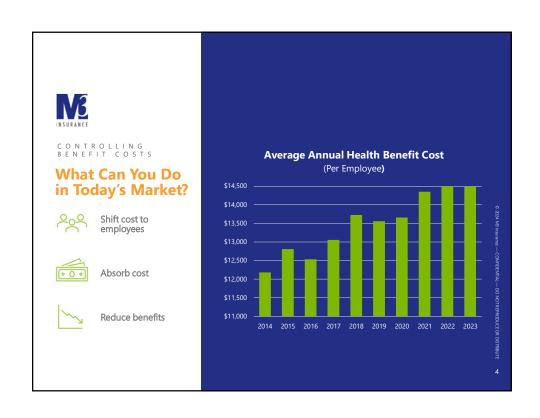
# Navigating the Future of Benefits Insurance: Trends, Strategies & Solutions

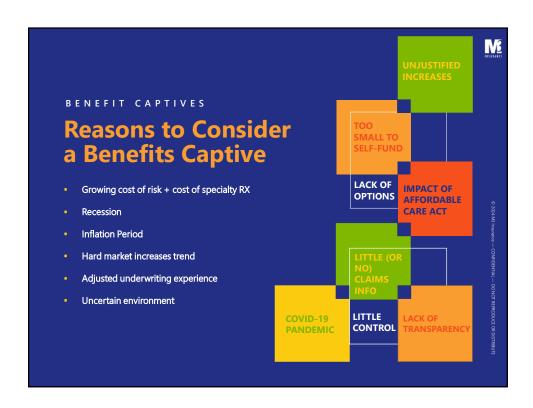
Martin Pepe, CLMS, Client Executive, M3 Insurance







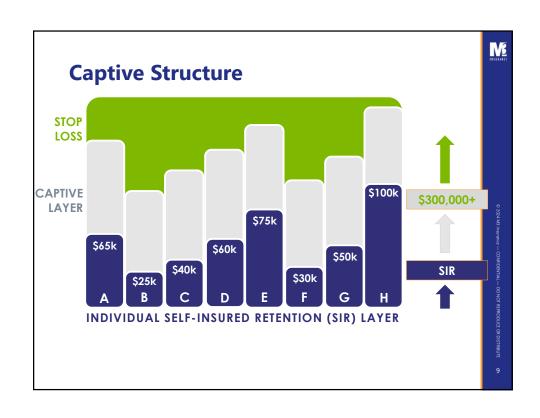




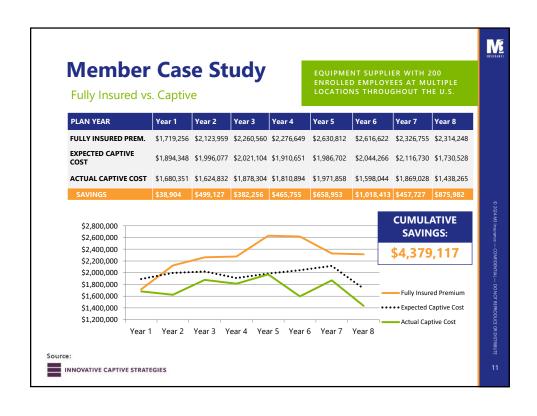
ır Options			
	FULLY INSURED	SELF- FUNDING	CAPTIVE
Available for Smaller Employers	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>
Plan Design Flexibility	-	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>
Claims Information	-	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>
Reward for Performance	-	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>
Manageable Risk Level	-	-	<b>/</b>
Pricing Stability	-	-	<b>/</b>
Group Purchasing Power	-	-	<b>/</b>
Outcome Based Wellness	-	-	<b>/</b>
Peer Group Support & Sharing	_	_	

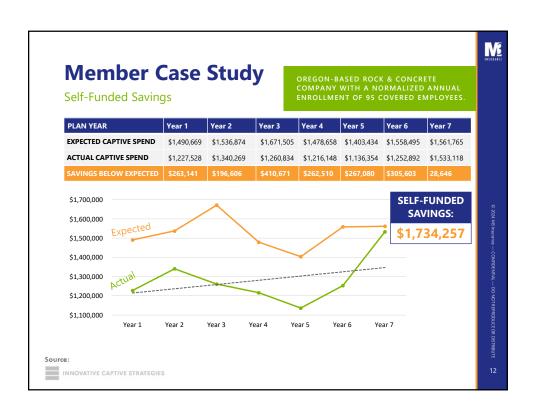






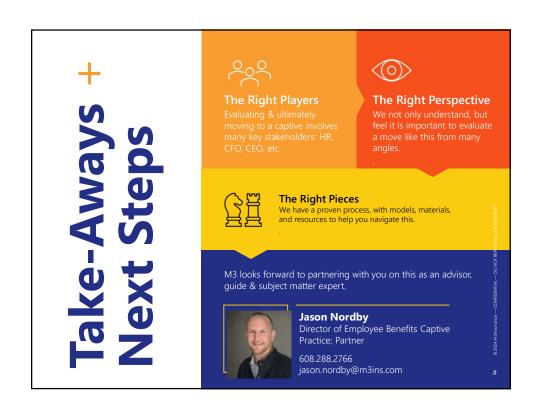
















# **A Recipe for Savings in Culinary Services**

### **Client Background**

A small culinary services company with 154 covered lives faced escalating dialysis claims costs, straining its lean cash flow.



# this financially constrained culinary services company. With limited resources and a low stop-loss deductible, **they sought a solution to reduce costs** while managing these complexities.

members with ImpactProtect.

Challenge

**Solution**The small company sought proven ways to save millions of dollars in medical spend. After looking at alternatives, they partnered with Renalogic to protect **their plan assets and** 

Navigating advanced stop-loss funding, proved especially daunting for

Renalogic's team of experts performed an **extensive analysis** of the dialysis claims, the carriers and stop loss intricacies involved.

### Results

In just one year, ImpactProtect significantly decreased the dialysis claims and delivered over \$2M net savings, reducing billed charges from \$2.2M to just a \$83K. Renalogic also successfully filed advanced-funding claims with their stop-loss carrier to ensure the company was never at risk of facing healthcare expenses beyond their means.

\$2.2M Billed Charges 96% Reduction off Billed Charges

\$2.1M

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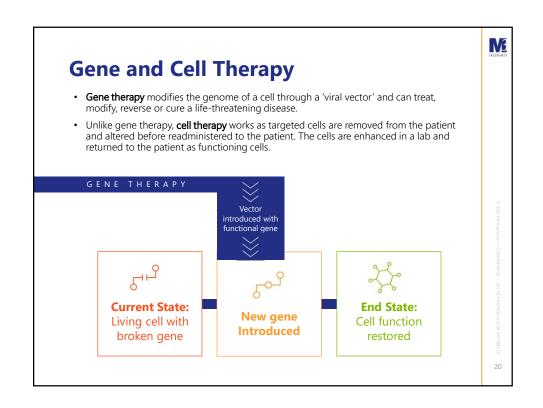
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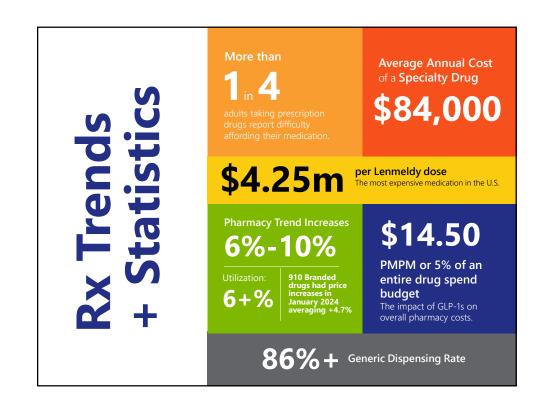
Renalogic.com













· Addressing the Powerful Middlemen Inflating Drug Costs

### **House Committee**

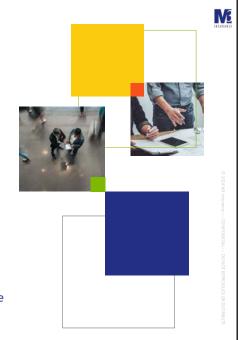
The role of PBMs in the Prescription Drug Market

### **New York Times**

How PBMs are Driving Up **Prescription Benefit Costs** 

### WSJ

- Mail Order Should be Cost Effective
- CarelonRx Mail Order



# **House Committee Report**

Key points from the article:

1.Anti-Competitive Practices:

The report details how the largest PBMs leverage their market dominance to enforce policies that stifle competition. This includes steering patients towards pharmacies they own, thereby limiting patient choice and

### 2.Impact on Drug Costs:

olt was revealed that the practices of these PBMs have significantly driven up the cost of prescription drugs. This is largely due to opaque pricing mechanisms, such as spread pricing, where PBMs charge payers more than they reimburse pharmacies and pocket the difference.

3.Patient Care:

The report highlights the detrimental effects on patient care, including ssential medications due to prior authorization requirements and formulary restrictions. These practices not only compromise patient health but also lead to increased out-of-pocket expenses.

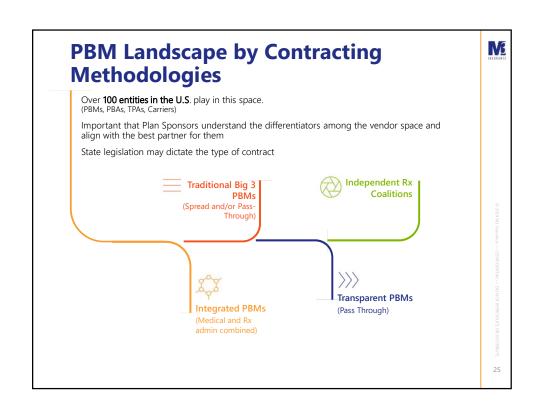
4.Lack of Transparency:

One of the core issues identified is the lack of transparency in PBM operations. The report calls for increased transparency to ensure that savings from negotiated discounts and rebates are passed on to patients and payers, rather than being retained as profit by PBMs.

### 5. Regulatory and Legislative Recommendations:

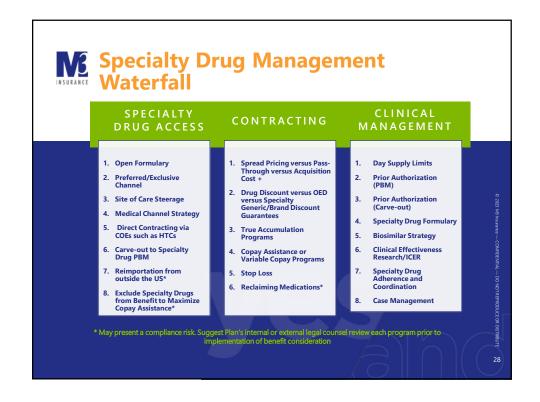
The article discusses the need for federal and state-level reforms to address these issues. Recommendations include banning anti-competitive practices, ensuring fair reimbursement for pharmacies, and mandating transparent reporting of all fees and rebates.

NB



Financial Parameter (Guaranteed Pricing)	Incumbent PBM	PBM Bidder A	PBM Bidder B
Gross Drug Cost	\$6,399,948	\$5,988,626	\$5,857,048
Admin/Implementation Fees	\$0	\$164,821	\$10,000
Rebates	(\$2,481,634)	(\$2,621,450)	(\$2,805,127)
Total Rx Spend	\$3,918,314	\$3,531,997	\$3,061,921
otal \$ Savings from Current		(\$386,317)	(\$856,393)
otal % Savings from Current		-9.8%	-21.9%
Qualitative Considerations for ABC Company (Estimated Savings)		PBM Bidder A	PBM Bidder B
Clinical Savings (PA, QL and SCEs)		\$725,808	\$341,684
Copay Assistance for Specialty Medications* (\$)		\$345,000	\$285,789
Estimated Savings		\$1,070,808	\$627,473
Copay assistance programs vary widel Estimated savings are not guaranteed.			es of comparison.
	Incumbent PBM	PBM Bidder A	PBM Bidder B
Total Net Rx Spend *	\$3,918,314	\$2,461,189	\$2,434,448
otal rict for opena		(\$1,457,125)	(\$1,483,866)
otal \$ Savings from Current		(\$1,131,123)	

### NB **Impact of Specialty Drugs** SPEND **Defining Specialty Drugs:** 50% to 60% Biologic in origin and produced using recombinant technology Specialty drug costs represent more than half of total pharmacy spend. Usually injected but oral therapy becoming more available TRAJECTORY 2/3 of new drugs launches Specialty Drugs will represent at least 2/3 of Special handling and supplies may be required, along with administration training new drug launches through the next 5 years. GROWTH 8% Growth is anticipated to be 8% per year through 2025. \$84,000/year The average cost of a specialty drug annually is approximately \$84,000.



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G L P - 1 9

# **Rx Management Considerations**

Consider approaching Rx management from two perspectives: Diabetes versus Weight Loss

### Revisit the organization's philosophy on overall well-being, healthy living and weight loss

- 1. Do you have a well being vendor partner today?
- 2. Do you cover bariatric or gastric bypass surgery?
- 3. Do you cover anorexiants under the drug benefit?
- 4. Have you considered discounts on healthy meal choices/delivery or Weight Watcherstype programs
- 5. Do you provide discounts on local fitness centers or provide onsite facilities?

### Cost

• Average monthly cost of a GLP-1 medication is \$1,000 (average range of \$900-\$1,300)

29

# **Getting to Know GLP-1 Agonists**

GLP-1 agonists work by triggering insulin release and reducing glucose production in the liver (making a person feel 'full')

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing	Dosage Form	Other Uses
Bydureon	Type 2 Diabetes	Weekly	Injection	Weight Loss
Byetta	Type 2 Diabetes	2x Daily	Injection	Weight Loss
Mounjaro	Type 2 Diabetes	Weekly	Injection	Weight Loss
Ozempic	Type 2 Diabetes	Weekly	Injection	Weight Loss, Other
Rybelsus	Type 2 Diabetes	Daily	Tablet	Weight Loss
Saxenda	Weight Loss	Daily	Injection	N/A
Trulicity	Type 2 Diabetes	Weekly	Injection	Weight Loss, Other
Victoza	Type 2 Diabetes	Daily	Injection	Weight Loss, Other
Wegovy	Weight Loss	Weekly	Injection	N/A
Zepbound	Weight Loss	Weekly	Injection	N/A

MB

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# **Considerations for Coverage**

Whether you cover GLP-1s for Type 2 Diabetes or weight loss, it is important to note that the most effective management of both also includes:

- Living a healthy lifestyle
- Diet modifications
- Exercise

### Sample Prior Authorization for Diabetes

- Confirmed Type 2 diabete: diagnosis
- Clinical markers like HbA1d
- Use or failure of first line therapies such as Metformin
- Use of clinical edits (quantity limits, step care edits)

### Sample Prior Authorization for Weight Loss

- Confirmed body mass index threshold met
- Confirmed failure on diet and exercise
- Inability to lose sufficient weight for improvements in health
- Use of clinical edits (quantity limits, step care edits)
- Continuous enrollment in behavioral modification program
- Duration checks regarding success

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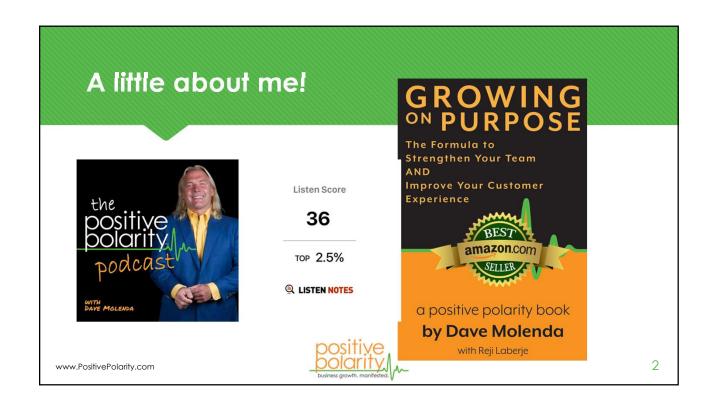


2:15 - 3:15 p.m.

# Beyond Boundaries: The Art of Comfort Zone Expansion

Dave Molenda, TDC, TDFC, TEQC, Owner, Positive Polarity LLC





The <u>comfort zone</u> is a behavioral state within which a person operates in an "anxiety-neutral" condition, using a limited set of behaviors to deliver a steady level of performance, usually without a sense of risk.



www.PositivePolarity.com





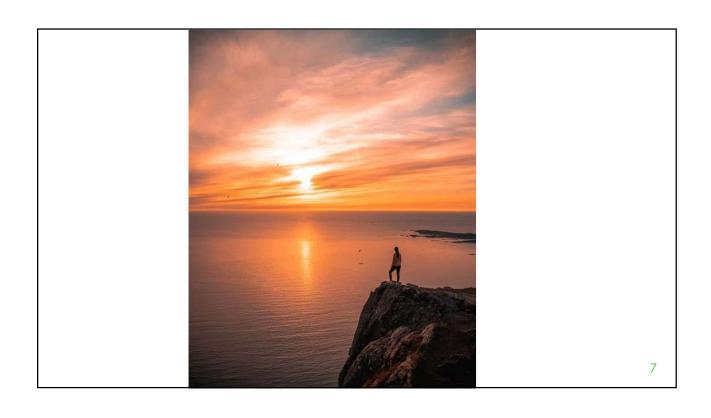
Fear of flying afflicts as much as 40 percent of the U.S. population.

Only about 5 percent of Americans have aviophobia so severe that they cannot fly.















# Does this energize you, or panic you?

Imagine that your boss walks into your office and says, "The company is doing some restructuring and, starting next week, you're going to report to someone new."





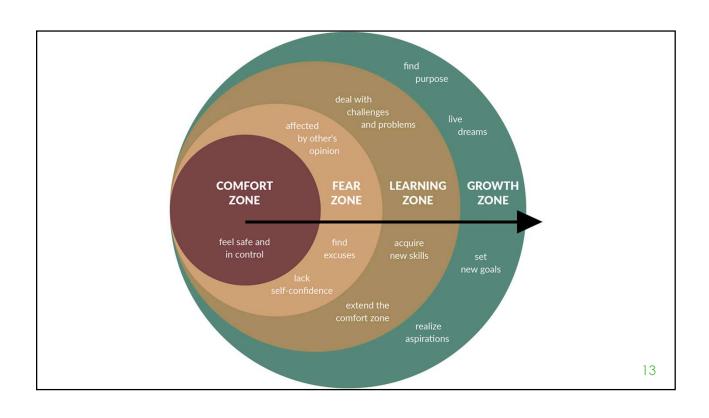


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# Which one are you?

Some people look at that situation optimistically and think, "That's great, I can't wait to see what new opportunities are available!" Others, however, look at that same exact statement from the boss and immediately experience fear and dread. They may think, "Oh great, now my career progress is going to stop."



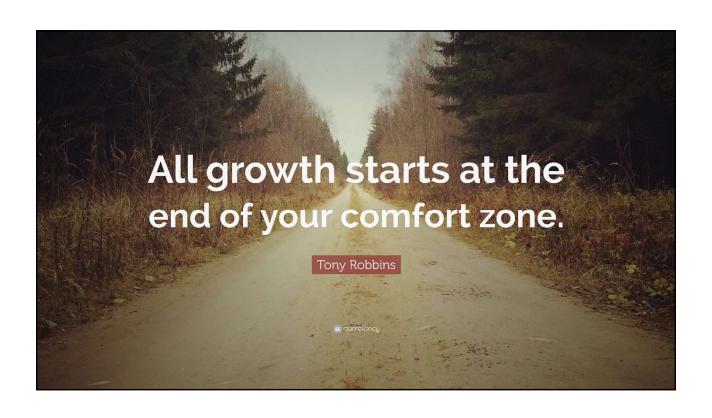


# Which half are you in right now?

Over half of us don't venture outside of our comfort zones and almost half (45%) fear that one day we might live to regret it, according to new research...









# Time to get out of your comfort zone!

Do one thing that scares you every day.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Time to try it...
share with us one thing that you wrote down...



17

# It starts in our thoughts!



# Your brain's main goal is self-preservation!

Your brain just wants to keep you alive and comfortable, ideally while saving energy. It doesn't care about anything else nearly as much. That explains why you'll find it such a challenge to stab yourself in the eye or run in front of a moving bus.



www.PositivePolarity.com

positive polarity///

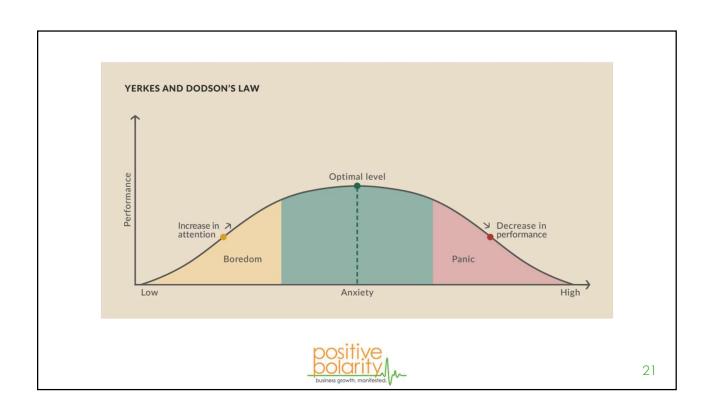
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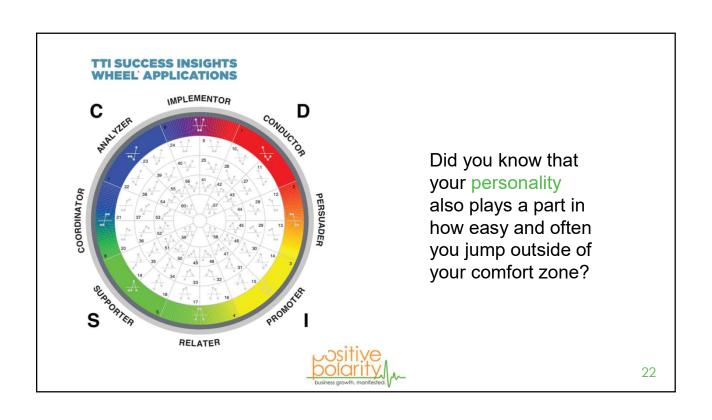
# Makes perfect sense!

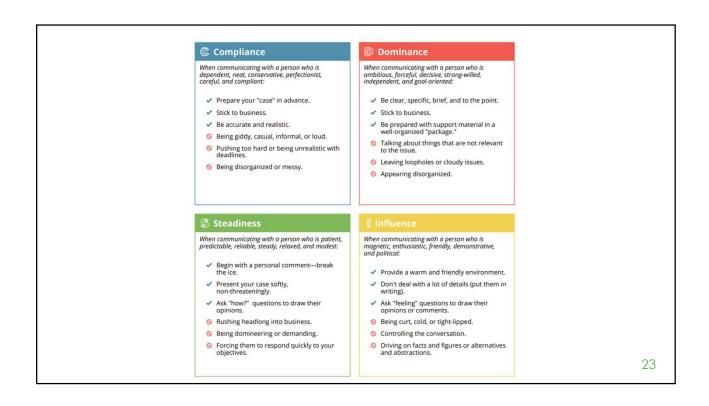
It's also a reasonable explanation of why trying new things scares us. We have no reference of what will happen when we try something new, so our brain has no idea if it's safe. Could it be a risk to your physical health? Could someone try and hurt you? The brain doesn't know, so it sends your physical body into panic mode, also known as 'fight or flight' mode.

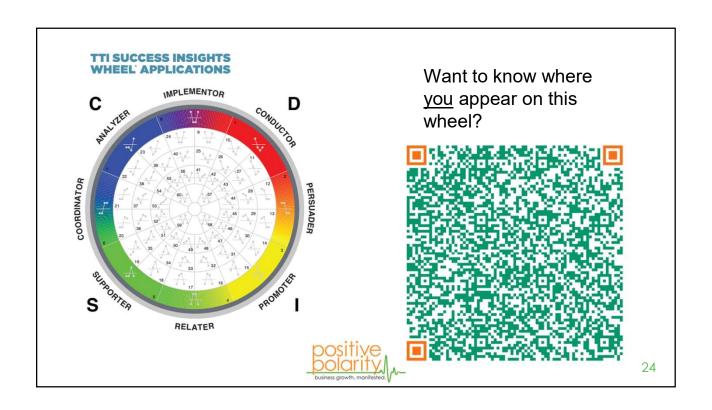
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# Zones of Growth: Strategies to Get Out of Your Comfort Zone

- I. Put Yourself in New Environments/Explore
- 2.Commit to a Challenge
- 3.Change Your Perspective on Failure
- 4.Get an Accountability Friend
- 5.Take Baby Steps
- 6.Write Down Your Goals



# Benefits of getting out of your comfort zone

<u>It increases your productivity</u>. When you decide to take on a new challenge or try a different approach to something familiar, you can create conditions for <u>improving productivity</u>. This may help you may get a better understanding of your true potential, feel confident in handling more responsibilities and <u>deliver better results</u>.



# Benefits of getting out of your comfort zone

<u>It improves your ability to adapt</u>. New experiences can help you become better at dealing with the <u>unfamiliar</u>. You may stay composed and focused when a new challenge presents itself and <u>improve your decision-making</u> abilities in these situations.



29

# Benefits of getting out of your comfort zone

<u>It promotes growth</u>. Regardless of the outcome, you may expand your experience, knowledge and skills when you leave your comfort zone. This can lead to professional and personal growth.





# Thank you for attending!



### If you want to get ahold of me for:

- 1. A copy of the slides
- 2. A discussion about your DISC assessment
- 3. Teach this to your company

Dave@positivepolarity.com

414 322 2358



# Thank you for attending!



### If you want to get ahold of me for:

- 1. A copy of the slides
- 2. A discussion about your DISC assessment
- 3. Do a deeper dive into this
- 4. Teach this to your company

### Dave@positivepolarity.com

414 322 2358



3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

# Al Use & Ethics for Accountants

Ken Rheingans, Partner - Technology Innovation, 7Rivers Inc





## About 7Rivers 7Rivers



**7Rivers** is a new-age technology services company that helps customers advance their data management practices by adopting modern cloud data warehouse technology, leveraging the emergence of mainstream AI, and creating insights-informed **Data Native™** applications and intelligent experiences.

We partner with **Snowflake** and **Al** service providers to augment the modern enterprise.

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3

## What is Generative AI? A New Era of Intelligence

### 7Rivers

### **Generative AI Defined**

 Generative Al creates new content (e.g., text, images, or data insights) by learning from vast datasets, enabling it to generate original outputs.

### **How It Works - Deep Learning Models**

- Based on deep learning, a type of AI that uses neural networks structured like the human brain to analyze complex patterns in data.
- These models process vast amounts of information and "learn" from the data, enabling them
  to generate new, contextually accurate outputs.

### **Generative AI vs. Traditional Machine Learning**

- Traditional ML: Learns patterns to make predictions or classifications (e.g., predicting trends).
- Generative AI: Creates new content (e.g., automated financial reports, personalized communications) based on learned data patterns.

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# **Beyond Chatbots: Advanced Applications**

7Rivers

- Content creation (articles, reports, marketing materials)
- Video, photo, audio, and data analysis and insights generation
- Planning
- Designing
- Collaboration
- Full custom, license-free, software application creation at the company and department level

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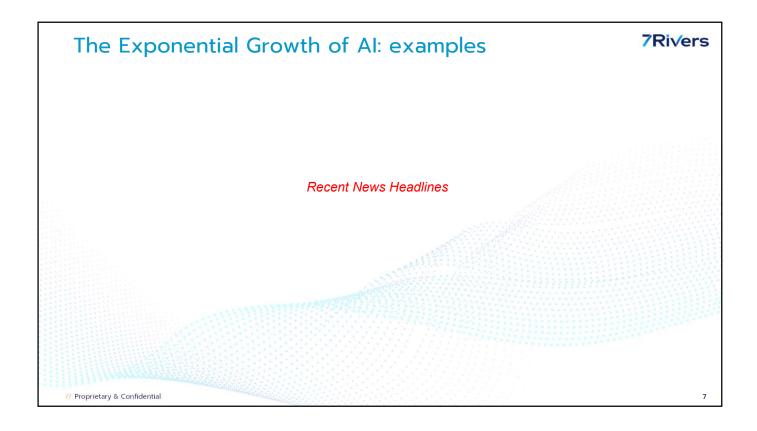
# The Exponential Growth of Al: A 10x/Year in Capabilities

### What is Exponential Growth?

### Implications for the Finance Industry

- GenAl use cases and abilities are expanding faster than adoption or education
- Need for Rapid adoption and integration of AI technologies
- Potential for significant disruption in traditional financial services
- Need for continuous upskilling and adaptation

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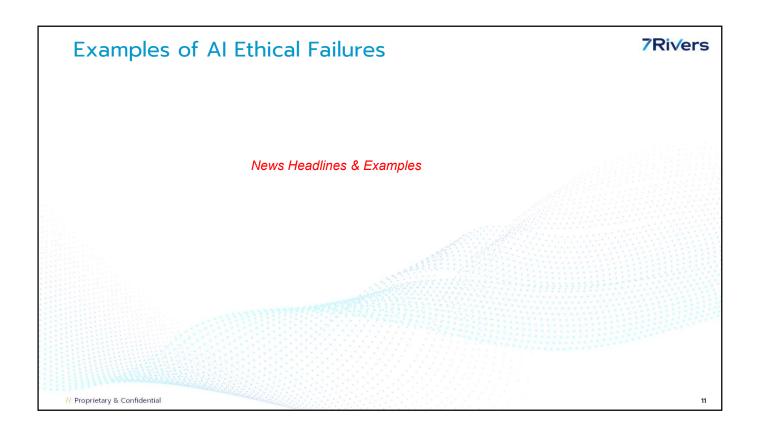


# Automated Bookkeeping and Reconciliation Al systems process and categorize transactions in real-time Intelligent Audit Assistance Al analyzing large datasets to identify anomalies and potential fraud Tax Compliance and Planning Al-driven systems interpreting complex tax codes and optimizing strategies Financial Forecasting and Scenario Analysis GenAl creating financial models and running multiple scenarios Natural Language Processing for Financial Documents Al extracting key information from unstructured financial data Enhanced fraud detection and risk assessment Al analysis of communications to detect fraud and risks

# Benefits Increased efficiency and productivity Enhanced accuracy and consistency Tailored to your company and department More time for high-value strategic tasks Challenges Need for upskilling and adaptation Ensuring data privacy and security Maintaining human judgment and oversight Impact on CPA Roles Shift towards higher-value advisory services Increased focus on data interpretation and strategic decision-making Need for Al literacy and ethical Al management skills

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# Types of Bias Social: Errors in the data or model Cognitive: Human biases in Al development Gender: Bias in Al-Powered Hiring Tools - Al systems favoring male candidates for finance positions based on historical data Cultural Bias in Global Finance Al models trained on predominantly Western data may misinterpret practices in emerging markets Example: Misclassification of legitimate transactions as suspicious due to unfamiliarity with local financial practices

# Ethical Challenges of GenAl: Transparency

### 7Rivers

### The "Black Box" Problem

- · Complex AI models lack clear decision-making processes
- · Importance in finance: Need for explainable decisions and audit trails

### **Strategies for Transparency**

- Implement Explainable AI (XAI) techniques
- · Provide clear documentation of AI decision-making processes
- · Regular audits and third-party verifications of AI systems

### **Examples in the News**

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13

# Ethical Challenges of GenAl: Trust

### 7Rivers

### **Building Trust in Al-Powered Financial Systems**

· Essential for adoption and regulatory compliance

### Challenges

- Data privacy concerns
- Potential for Al-generated misinformation in financial reports
- Overreliance on AI recommendations

### **Trust-Building Measures**

- · Regular system audits and certifications
- · Clear communication of Al's role and limitations
- Human-in-the-loop processes for critical decisions
- Robust data governance and privacy protection measures

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## Ethical Challenges of GenAl: Mitigation Strategies

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### **Regular Bias Audits and Testing**

- · Implement automated tools to detect bias in outputs
- Conduct periodic manual reviews by diverse teams

### Fairness Constraints in Al applications

- Incorporate fairness constraints into GenAl applications
- · Use techniques like adversarial debiasing or fair representation learning

### **Cultural Sensitivity Checks**

- · Develop global teams to review Al outputs for cultural appropriateness
- Implement multilingual and multicultural testing scenarios

### **Continuous Education and Training**

- · Regular ethics training for AI application developers and users
- · Stay updated on evolving ethical Al guidelines and best practices

### **Ethical AI Frameworks**

- Develop and implement company-wide ethical Al principles
- Create clear processes for ethical decision-making in AI development and deployment

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15

# Accountability and Responsibility in the Age of Al

7Rivers

Misuse - voice, exams, images, avatars, etc. - marcos license?

### Human Oversight is Crucial:

Example: Lawyer sentenced for not verifying Al-generated legal citations (2023 case)

### Key Principles for CPAs:

- · Always verify Al-generated financial data and reports
- · Maintain professional skepticism when using AI tools
- · Understand the limitations and potential errors of AI systems

### Establishing Clear Chains of Responsibility:

- Define roles for Al system management
- Create protocols for reviewing and approving AI outputs
- Implement error reporting and correction mechanisms

Examples in the news

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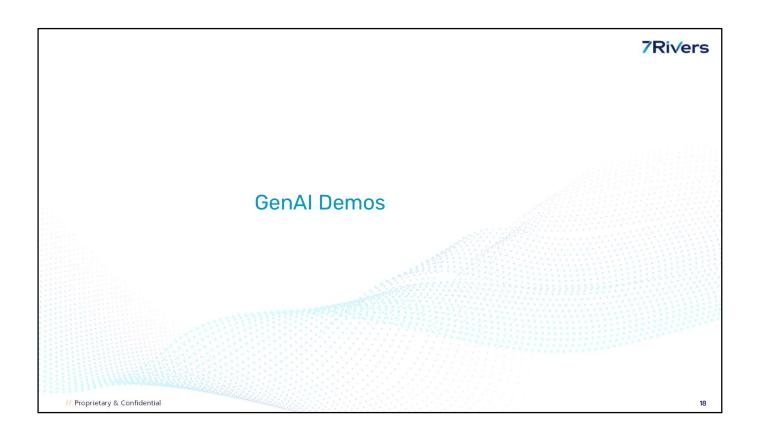
# **Demos – Introducing Marcos from 7Rivers**

7Rivers

- Marcos is a GenAl accelerator
- Designed to help businesses quickly adopt AI and test out GenAI Proof od Concepts
- Integrates multiple Large Language Models (LLMs) to select the best model for specific tasks
- It uses advanced techniques like "chain of thought" reasoning and multiple AI agents to tackle complex problems.
- · With Snowflake integration, it offers real-time insights, enhanced security, and scalability.
- · Deployable across major cloud platforms
- · Supports multimodal interactions like voice and document processing

Marcos accelerates the transition from Premise to Prototype to Production

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## **Next Steps for Your Organization**

7Rivers

### Find a GenAl Application to start learning and testing

Leverage 7Rivers' Marcos GenAl Accelerator to get a POC up and running quickly

### **Establish an Al Ethics Committee**

Include diverse perspectives: technical, legal, ethical, and domain experts

### **Define Core Ethical Principles**

Examples: Fairness, transparency, accountability, privacy, and human-centricity

### **Develop Specific Guidelines for Al Use in Finance**

· Bias detection and mitigation procedures, transparency requirements

### **Implement Ongoing Monitoring and Auditing Processes**

Regular ethics assessments of AI systems

### Foster a Culture of Ethical Al Use

- · Continuous education on AI ethics and evolving regulations for staff
- · Stay informed about evolving regulations and best practices
- · Encourage open discussion

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19

7Rivers

# Q&A

Ken Rheingans

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